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99th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - - - - - - - - - House Document No. 99-223

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
86TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

[SUMMARY OF MINUTES]

ORIGINAL

Dallas, Texas : : : : August 16-23, 1985

99th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - - - - - - House Document No. 99-223

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

86th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

[SUMMARY OF MINUTES]

Dallas, Texas

August 16-23, 1985

May 20, 1986.—Referred to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed, with illustrations

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
60-678 O WASHINGTON : 1986

PUBLIC LAW NO. 620, NINETIETH CONGRESS

Public Law 620, Ninetieth Congress (44 U.S.C. 1332) reads as follows:

"The proceedings of the national encampments of the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the United States of America, Incorporated, the Disabled American Veterans, and the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II), respectively, shall be printed annually, with accompanying illustrations, as separate House documents of the session of the Congress to which they may be submitted."

Approved October 2, 1968.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

April 15, 1986.

Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

My Dear Mr. Speaker: In conformance with the provisions of Public Law No. 620, 90th Congress, approved October 22, 1968, I am transmitting to you herewith the proceedings of the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States held in Dallas, Texas, August 16–23, 1985 which is submitted for printing as a House Document.

Sincerely,

Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.,
Adjutant General.

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VFW NATIONAL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1984-85

Commander-in-chief	Billy Ray Cameron
Senior vice commander-in-chief	John S. Staum
Junior vice commander-in-chief	Norman G. Staab
Adjutant general	Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Quartermaster general	J.A. Cheatham*
Judge advocate general	Thomas A. Pouliot
Surgeon general	Dr. Raymond W. Schlueter
National chaplain	Rev. Frederick W. Christiansen
Chief of staff	Larry W. Rivers
Inspector general	J.P. Cockrill
Assistant adjutant general and executive director, Washington office.	Cooper T. Holt
Assistant adjutant general, administration	Edward L. Burnham
Assistant adjutant general, programs	Curtis M. Jewell
Assistant quartermaster general	Herbert W. Irwin
Director, publications	John L. Smith
Director, public relations	Wade LaDue
Editor, VFW magazine	James K. Anderson
Director, administrative services	Omar Kendall
Director, Americanism and community activities.	Raymond N. Price
Director, post development and safety	Joseph D. Ross
Director, membership	W. Benny Bachand
Director, post services and buddy poppy	John J. Senk, Jr.
Director, voice of democracy and youth activities.	Lawrence LeFebvre
Director, national convention	Arthur J. Vater
Director, service officer and director, national veterans service.	Frederico Juarbe, Jr.
Director, national legislative service	Donald H. Schwab
Director, national security and foreign affairs	Kenneth A. Steadman
Director, public affairs, Washington office	Ronald A. Duchin
Director, political action committee	Fred A. Von Rembow**
Administrative assistant, Washington office	Leo Andrew
Director, emblem and supply department	James D. Bowden
Director, insurance programs	Robert Crow
Director, insurance programs	Wayne Rom
Director, purchasing and life membership	Joe L. Ridgley
Director, general services	William E. Rafiner
Director, VFW properties, Kansas City	Roy E. Shedd, Jr.
Director, VFW properties, Washington	William Callaghan
Administrative assistant to adjutant general	Thomas L. Kissell
Administrative assistant to quartermaster general.	Robert B. Greene

---

*J.A. Cheatham retired as Quartermaster General on March 31, 1985. Herbert W. Irwin was elected Quartermaster General by National Council of Administration and installed by Commander-in-Chief on April 1, 1985.

**Charles F. Ball, Jr. appointed Director of Political Action Committee effective December 3, 1984, upon Fred A. Von Rembow's retirement.

REGIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS, 1984-85

District 1 (ME, NH, VT)	Robert C. Jordan
District 2 (MA, CT)	Albert J. Konan
District 3 (MD, RI)	Manuel V. Oliver
District 4 (DC, DE, GER)	Elmer L. Matheke
District 5 (IN, MO)	James J. Thiel
District 6 (WV, VA, KY)	Richard M. Dawson
District 7 (TN, NC)	Otha M. Kerr, Jr.
District 8 (Fl, GA)	Lester W. Davis
District 9 (MS, AL, SC)	Hollis Smith
District 10 (LA, OK, AR)	William Procter
District 11 (WI, IA)	Monte D. Hanson
District 12 (SD, ND, WY)	A.J. Heggestad
District 13 (NE, KS)	William H. Taylor, Sr.
District 14 (MT, WA, ID)	Harold L. Lind
District 15 (NM, CO, AZ)	Manuel Evaro
District 16 (PC, PAC, AK, HI)	Joe DeCosta
District 17 (UT, NV, OR)	Howard Fite
District A (PA)	Thomas J. Dougherty
District B (IL)	James W. Felton
District C (NY)	Samuel C. Pilato
District D (OH)	Lawrence J. Krugman
District E (MN)	Robert H. Mares
District F (MI)	Assad Allie
District G (CA)	George S. Bellon
District H (TX)	C.W. Buchanan
District I (NJ)	Arthur Morin
Past Commander-in-Chief	Clifford G. Olson, Jr.

VFW
5631
COMM
VETER

BILLY RAY CAMERON

SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, 1984–85

JOHN S. STAUM

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, 1985–86

VFW NATIONAL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1985-86

Commander-in-chief	John S. Staum
Senior vice commander-in-chief	Norman G. Staab
Junior vice commander-in-chief	Earl L. Stock, Jr.
Adjutant general	Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Quartermaster general	Herbert W. Irwin
Judge advocate general	Joseph V. Riley
Surgeon general	Dr. Edwin Wright
National chaplain	Reverend Warren F. Braun
Chief of staff	George R. Cramer
Inspector general	Robert D. Eliason
Assistant adjutant general and executive director, Washington office.	Cooper T. Holt
Assistant adjutant general, administration	Edward L. Burnham
Assistant adjutant general, programs	Curtis M. Jewell
Assistant quartermaster general	James D. Bowden
Director, administrative services	Omar Kendall
Director, post services and buddy poppy	John J. Senk, Jr.
Director, general services	William E. Rafiner
Director, membership	W. Benny Bachand
Director, Americanism and community activities.	Raymond N. Price
Director, post development and safety	Joseph D. Ross
Director, Voice of Democracy and youth activities.	Lawrence LeFebvre
Director, national convention	Arthur J. Vater
Director, publications and public relations	Wade W. LaDue
Director, advertising and managing editor of VFW magazine.	John L. Smith
Director, VFW magazine	James K. Anderson
Director, emblem and supply department	Joe L. Ridgley
Director, insurance programs	Robert Crow
Director, insurance programs	Wayne Rom
Director, purchasing and life membership	Robert B. Greene
National service officer and director, national veterans service.	Frederico Juarbe, Jr.
Director, national legislative service	Donald H. Schwab
Director, national security and foreign affairs	Kenneth A. Steadman
Director, public affairs, Washington office	Ronald A. Duchin
Director, political action committee	Charles F. Ball, Jr.
Director, VFW properties, Kansas City	Roy F. Shedd, Jr.
Director, VFW properties, Washington	William Callaghan
Administrative assistant to adjutant general	Thomas L. Kissell
Administrative assistant to quartermaster general.	Gary Housknecht
Administrative assistant, Washington office	Edward L. "Leo" Andrew

REGIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS, 1985–86

District 1 (ME, NH, VT)	John M. Packard
District 2 (MA, CT)	Albert J. Konan
District 3 (MD, RI)	Bruno W. Betro
District 4 (DC, DE, GER)	Elmer L. Matheke
District 5 (IN, MO)	Melvin L. Page, Sr.
District 6 (WV, VA, KY)	Richard M. Dawson
District 7 (TN, NC)	Claude Jack Ragan
District 8 (FL, GA)	Lester W. Davis
District 9 (MS, AL, SC)	S.H. Parsons
District 10 (LA, OK, AR)	William M. Procter
District 11 (WI, IA)	Russell D. Truax
District 12 (SD, ND, WY)	A.J. Heggestad
District 13 (NE, KS)	Raymond N. Stotler
District 14 (MT, WA, ID)	Harold L. Lind
District 15 (NM, CO, AZ)	Merle R. Cushatt
District 16 (PC, PAC, AK, HI)	Joe DeCosta
District 17 (UT, NV, OR)	Jack Williams
District A (PA)	Raymond C. Mullin
District B (IL)	Dwight Tanner, Jr.
District C (NY)	Domenick A. Volpe
District D (OH)	Lawrence J. Krugman
District E (MN)	Robert H. Mares
District F (MI)	Irving M. Spencer
District G (CA)	Joseph F. Martin
District H (TX)	C.W. Buchanan
District I (NJ)	George Van Allen
Past Commander-in-Chief	Billy Ray Cameron

COMMANDERS IN CHIEF, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

(Including societies that amalgamated to form Veterans of Foreign Wars)

(The American Veterans of Foreign Service and the Army of the Philippines amalgamated at Denver, Colo., August 1913, forming the Veterans of Foreign Wars as it is today. However, the birth of the order dates from September 23, 1899, when the first national officers were elected and the eligibility clause adopted. The original chapter was granted October 11, 1899.)

AMERICAN VETERANS OF FOREIGN SERVICE

James C. Putnam*—1899-1900	Elected at Columbus, Ohio.
Maj. Will S. White*—1900-1901	Elected at Columbus, Ohio.
Maj. Will S. White*—1901-	Elected at Columbus, Ohio.
James Romanis*—1902-3	Elected at Washington Courthouse, Ohio.
James Romanis*—1903-4	Elected at Cincinnati, Ohio.
James Romanis*—1904-5	Elected at Cincinnati, Ohio.
George Metzger*—1905-6	Elected at Altoona, Pa.
Charles H. Devereaux*—1906-7	Elected at Cincinnati, Ohio.
David T. Nevin*—1907-8	Elected at James Exposition Grounds, Va.
J. Alfred Judge*—1908-9	Elected at Lebanon, Pa.
J. Alfred Judge*—1909-10	Elected at Pittsburgh, Pa.
Robert G. Woodside*—1910-11	Elected at Jersey City, N.J.
Robert G. Woodside*—1911-12	Elected at Philadelphia, Pa.
Robert G. Woodside*—1912-13	Elected at Pittsburgh, Pa.

AMERICAN VETERANS OF FOREIGN SERVICE

(Eastern Branch)

Capt. Robert S. Hansburg*—1903-4	Elected at Altoona, Pa.
H.O. Kelly*—1904-5	Elected at Pittsburgh, Pa.

[The above two organizations amalgamated September 1905, at Altoona, Pa.]

ARMY OF THE PHILIPPINES

Gen. Francis V. Greene*—1900-1	Elected at Denver, Colo.
Gen. Irving Hale*—1901-2	Elected at Salt Lake City, Utah.
Gen. Irving Hale*—1902-3	Elected at Council Bluffs, Iowa.
Gen. Charles King*—1903-4	Elected at St. Paul, Minn.
Gen. Wilder S. Metcalf*—1904-5	Elected at St. Louis, Mo.
Col. Alfred S. Frost*—1905-6	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
Gen. Arthur MacArthur*—1906-7	Elected at Des Moines, Iowa.
Capt. H.A. Crow*—1907-8	Elected at Kansas City, Mo.
Maj. P.J. Farrell*—1908-9	Elected at Galesburg, Ill.
Col. Charles L. Jewett*—1909-10	Elected at Pittsburgh, Pa.
A.H. Anderson*—1910-11	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
F. Warner Karling*—1911-12	Elected at Detroit, Mich.
F. Warner Karling*—1912-13	Elected at Lincoln, Nebr.

*Deceased

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Rice W. Means*—1913-14	Elected at Denver, Colo.
Thomas Crago*—1914-15	Elected at Pittsburgh, Pa.
Gus Hartung*—1915-16	Elected at Detroit, Mich.
Albert Rabing*—1916-17	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
William Ralston*—1917-18	Elected at New York, N.Y.
F. Warner Karling*—1918-19	Elected at Minneapolis, Minn.
F. Warner Karling*—1919-20	Elected at Providence, R.I.
Robert G. Woodside*—1920-21	Elected at Washington, D.C.
Robert G. Woodside*—1921-22	Elected at Detroit, Mich.
Tillinghast Huston*—1922-23	Elected at Seattle, Wash.
Gen. Lloyd M. Brett*—1923-24	Elected at Norfolk, Va.
John H. Dunn*—1924-25	Elected at Atlantic City, N.J.
Fred Stover*—1925-26	Elected at Tulsa, Okla.
Theodore Stitt*—1926-27	Elected at El Paso, Tex.
Frank T. Strayer*—1927-28	Elected at Providence, R.I.
Eugene P. Carver*—1928-29	Elected at Indianapolis, Ind.
Hezekiah N. Duff*—1929-30	Elected at St. Paul, Minn.
Paul C. Wolman*—1930-31	Elected at Baltimore, Md.
Darold D. DeCoe*—1931-32	Elected at Kansas City, Mo.
Adm. Robert E. Coontz*—1932-33	Elected at Sacramento, Calif.
James E. Van Zandt*—1933-34	Elected at Milwaukee, Wis.
James E. Van Zandt*—1934-35	Elected at Louisville, Ky.
James E. Van Zandt*—1935-36	Elected at New Orleans, La.
Bernard W. Kearney*—1936-37	Elected at Denver, Okla.
Scott P. Squyres*—1937-38	Elected at Buffalo, N.Y.
Eugene I. Van Antwerp*—1938-39	Elected at Columbus, Ohio.
Otis N. Brown*—1939-40	Elected at Boston, Mass.
Joseph C. Menendez*—1940-41	Elected at Los Angeles, Calif.
Max Singer*—1941-42	Elected at Philadelphia, Pa.
Robert T. Merrill—1942-43	Elected at Cincinnati, Ohio.
Carl J. Schoeninger*—1943-44	Elected at New York, N.Y.
Jean A. Brunner*—1944-45	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
Joseph M. Stack*—1945-46	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
Louis E. Starr*—1946-47	Elected at Boston, Mass.
Ray H. Brannaman*—1947-48	Elected at Cleveland, Ohio.
Lyall T. Beggs*—1948-49	Elected at St. Louis, Mo.
Clyde A. Lewis—1949-50	Elected at Miami, Fla.
Charles C. Ralls*—1950-51	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
Frank C. Hilton—1951-52	Elected at New York, N.Y.
James W. Cothran*—1952-53	Elected at Los Angeles, Calif.
Wayne E. Richards*—1953-54	Elected at Milwaukee, Wis.
Merton, B. Tice—1954-55	Elected at Philadelphia, Pa.
Timothy J. Murphy—1955-56	Elected at Boston, Mass.
Cooper T. Holt—1956-57	Elected at Dallas, Tex.
Richard L. Roudebush—1957-58	Elected at Miami Beach, Fla.
John W. Mahan—1958-59	Elected at New York, N.Y.
Louis G. Feldman—1959-60	Elected at Los Angeles, Calif.
T.C. Connell—1960-61	Elected at Detroit, Mich.
Robert E. Hansen—1961-62	Elected at Miami Beach, Fla.
Byron B. Gentry—1962-63	Elected at Minneapolis, Minn.
Joseph J. Lombardo—1963-64	Elected at Seattle, Wash.
John A. Jenkins*—1964-65	Elected at Cleveland, Ohio.
Andy Borg—1965-66	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
Leslie M. Fry—1966-67	Elected at New York, N.Y.
Joseph A. Scerra—1967-68	Elected at New Orleans, La.
Richard W. Homan—1968-69	Elected at Detroit, Mich.
Raymond A. Gallagher—1969-70	Elected at Philadelphia, Pa.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Herbert R. Rainwater—1970-71	Elected at Miami Beach, Fla.
Joseph L. Vicites—1971-72	Elected at Dallas, Tex.
Patrick E. Carr—1972-73	Elected at Minneapolis, Minn.
Ray R. Soden—1973-74	Elected at New Orleans, La.
John J. Stang—1974-75	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
Thomas C. Walker—1975-76	Elected at Los Angeles, Calif.
R.D. Smith, Jr.—1976-77	Elected at New York, N.Y.
Dr. John Wasylik—1977-78	Elected at Minneapolis, Minn.
Eric Sandstrom—1978-79	Elected at Dallas, Tex.
Howard Vander Clute, Jr.—1979-80	Elected at New Orleans, La.
T.C. Selman*—1980-81	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
Arthur Fellwock—1980-81.[1]	
Arthur Fellwock—1981-82	Elected at Philadelphia, Pa.
James R. Currieo—1982-83	Elected at Los Angeles, Calif.
Clifford G. Olson—1983-84	Elected at New Orleans, La.
Billy Ray Cameron—1984-85	Elected at Chicago, Ill.
John S. Staum—1985-86	Elected at Dallas, Tx.

*Deceased.

[1] Succeeded T.C. Selman, Oct. 21, 1980.

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 86TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES, DALLAS, TX, AUGUST 16-23, 1985

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, August 18, 1985

Organ Prelude	John Batten
Official National VFW Band	Uniontown VFW Post No. 47 Band, Uniontown, PA
Escorting of Gold Star Parents and Gold Star Wives.	Department of Texas, Ladies Auxiliary
Escorting of National Officers and Past National Chaplains.	Department of Texas, Ladies Auxiliary
Call to Order	Billy Ray Cameron Commander-in-Chief
Advance of Colors	VFW National Honor Guard
National Anthem	Band and Assembly

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. The invocation will be by Reverend Gilbert J. Graham, Administrator of St. Jude Chapel.

Reverend GRAHAM. Lord, we are grateful to live and to work and to enjoy the tremendous advantages of our beloved country.

Help us not to take it for granted, and enlighten us to realize well that American can only be what we are.

Above all, never let us be unmindful of the price young men and women and families paid for the privileges we now share in this blessed land.

Let us honor them always in deep gratitude and in recognition of the debt that can never be paid.

Lord, in memory of those who gave their lives and their loved ones for our nation's freedom, strengthen us to strive for a life rich in quality and virtue.

Help us to build a society that is a true human family where there is love, friendship, reverence and appreciation of one another and of mutual dependence upon your loving providence.

May this be our monument to our beloved dead; and Lord, grant them glory, one and all in eternity, for the love they gave which was so much like your own. Amen.

Sergeant-at-Arms SARVER. The opening ceremonies have been performed.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you very much. At this time the Blue Falcon Chorale will sing Nearer My God To Thee.

Posthumous Presentation of VFW Armed Forces Award to Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Comrades, Ladies of the Auxiliary, and Friends: I am going to present an award to a man who gave his life for our great nation.

Major Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr., will receive the 1985 Veterans of Foreign Wars Armed Forces Award this morning, posthumously.

The officer who gave his life in the service of his country, Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr., was shot in the back without provocation by Russian soldiers and allowed to die without medical care as he was performing his legal intelligence duties in East Germany on March 24, 1985.

Major Nicholson was a member of the United States Military Liaison mission based in Potsdam, East Germany. He had served with this mission for three years and was scheduled to return to the United States this summer.

He had completed sixteen years of service at the time of his death. Though he was commissioned as an engineer officer following Officer Candidate School, he was transferred to the military intelligence and gained a specialty of a Soviet Foreign Area Officer by successfully completing the rigorous course of training prescribed for that specialty.

In addition he received a Master of Arts in International Relations from the prestigious United States Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

From all accounts Arthur Nicholson was a first class officer, a man of courage and conviction, dedicated to the principles which guide our democracy and separate us from the Communist regime which was responsible for his inhumane death.

Today we are reminded of the words of General Douglas MacArthur, and I quote, "However horrible the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country, is the noblest development of mankind."

Major Nicholson's wife, Mrs. Karen Nicholson, is here today and I invite her to join me at the podium.

Before we present this award and I would like you to note that this cherished Veterans of Foreign Wars Armed Forces Award being presented today has been presented to many distinguished members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

The single criteria is that he shall be a man that made an outstanding contribution for our great nation and contributed to our National Security.

And it was the opinion of our National Council of Administration that Major Arthur D. Nicholson's career met all our criteria and I am proud this morning to present this award to his lovely wife.

I shall read the citation that accompanies the award: "The VFW Armed Forces Award, Gold Medal and Citation, presented posthumously to Major Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr., in recognition of his exemplary performance of duty as an officer of the United States Army, his courage and conviction as a member of the United States Army Liaison Mission, Potsdam, and above all, his dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy for which he gave his life." The citation is signed by Adjutant General Howard

Vander Clute, and Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Mrs. Nicholson, I am indeed proud to present this award to you from the Veterans of Foreign Wars for your husband.

Mrs. NICHOLSON. I thank you very much. I am honored to accept the 1985 VFW Armed Forces Award for outstanding contributions to National Security on behalf of my husband, Major Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr.

I am overwhelmed, as anyone would be, that fellow Veterans would pay him such a tribute. He simply considered himself a soldier and carried out his duties with willingness founded on patriotism.

He was proud of his job, his uniform and his country. Nick gained a great sense of satisfaction in the knowledge that every day in his career he contributed something of significance to his country and his fellow Americans.

He dedicated his life to the development of the military superiority and study of other people, especially the Soviets, in the hope that some day he would play a small part in achieving world peace through understanding.

He never looked for a reward or acknowledgment of his accomplishments. It was enough for him to know that he had contributed.

I am proud that you selected Nick to receive this award which you have presented to such distinguished men. I only wish that he were here to accept it himself.

The VFW efforts have been unbounded to the American serviceman and his family. You have heightened public awareness of the needs of the soldier and his family and kept before the country the value of the job of those in the military performed for all Americans.

It is a privilege to be here among Veterans because it is an opportunity to join together to communicate with soldiers and their wives who shared similar experiences and who understand.

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMODORE MCNAMARA

(By Commander-in-Chief Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. It is indeed a pleasure to have with us this morning as our Memorial Speaker, a gentleman with a distinguished background, the Deputy Chief of Chaplains, who will become the 17th Chief of Chaplains of the Department of the Navy on August 27.

His entire adult life has been devoted to serving others through his duties as a Roman Catholic Priest and his various assignments in the Navy Chaplaincy. Those began with his graduation in 1952 from Saint John's Seminary in Boston, and his ordination as a Priest of the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. During the first 10 years of his priesthood, he served as the Assistant Pastor of Saint Rita's in Norwell, Massachusetts.

His military career began in 1962, when he was commissioned a Chaplain in the United States Navy. In 23 years of active military service, his assignments have taken him throughout the United

States, to Vietnam, the Philippines, and to assignments on board the USS Kitty Hawk and the USS Oklahoma City. He holds the present rank of Commodore and will soon be promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

His military decorations include the Bronze Star with Combat V for service in Vietnam; the Meritorious Service Medal for service as the Naval District Chaplain in Washington, D.C.; the Gold Star for service as Assignments Officer for the Chaplain Corps; and the Navy Commendation Medal for Outstanding Performance of Duty on board the USS Oklahoma City.

Comrades, Sisters, Guests, I invite your undivided attention to the message from our Memorial Service Speaker.

I am honored to present Chaplain John R. McNamara.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Commodore **McNAMARA**. For a Navy Chaplain this is quite a congregation. We can't hardly put all these people on the fantail of a destroyer. It is a great thrill to be here and an honor to participate in this memorial in honor of those who have given their lives and it's doubly an honor to share this occasion with Mrs. Nicholson who I think so beautifully personifies the courage and devotion and loyalty of so many wives and loved ones. Such courage is not unlike that of those that we honor today.

More than three and a half centuries ago a band of gray souls clinging desperately to the edge of this continent set aside a day to murmur thanks to God for a harvest barely out of survival. Since that first Thanksgiving we Americans have identified ourselves as a religious people.

We have retained a sense of dependence in Almighty God. We feel, however vaguely, some call to do, to be what God intended.

Our Founding Fathers, though they represent many creeds, all took a spiritual view of man.

They believed that God is a personal God, our first beginning and last end. They believe that God's providence goes over the entire Universe so that not a sparrow falls from the sky nor a hair from our head without his concurrence.

They believe that man has dignity because he has a spiritual and mortal soul, and man has rights because that soul is made in the image and likeness of God; and they believe that the government that they have established has as their purpose to defend and develop freedom and dignity of man as he works out his eternal salvation in time.

These are the ideas that gave birth to our nation. That give light to our legal institutions and vitality to our political and social structure, and if these ideas, taken from the scripture, erode, they leave the constitution suspended in midair.

You may feel that is so much propaganda, but it is amazing to me to find these spiritual origins of America expressed in the major historical monuments of the City of Washington.

Many of you have been to Jefferson Memorial. There stands that handsome rugged aristocrat, looking straight ahead at the White House, a silent sentinel; and on the walls around him are carved some of his writings, like, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights."

Another quotation chiseled in marble: "God who have gave us life gave us liberty," and, "shall the liberties of the nation long endure, if the people lose a conviction that those liberties are the gift of God."

Move along the Tidal Basin to the Lincoln Memorial and there sits Father Abraham gazing across the wall towards the Congress. On the wall to his left is chiseled the second inaugural address which contains these words that describe the content and cadence of scripture: "with malice toward none, with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."

Cross over the Potomac to Arlington Cemetery and stand by the eternal flame that flickers over the grave of the thirty-fifth president and read again the words with which he concluded his inauguration: "Let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking his blessing and his help but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

So my point is this: We are in our origins a religious people.

It is natural that we should gather in this memorial to honor those who made that supreme sacrifice that this nation might live.

So we think today of all those killed in combat, in the air, on the sea, under the sea, on the land, and in song and prayer and words we commend them to God.

We honor them as heroes. We think of them as brothers to whom we have been bound by thousands of ties of blood and friendship and admiration.

We commend them to God with the faith and conviction that in death life is not taken away but only transformed, and we take consolation in the conviction that one day we will be reunited with them in the Kingdom of Heaven.

So, I say it is natural that we would honor them and commend them to God but we know that is not enough.

Those men invested their life's blood in the future of America, and as they did so, they made an act of faith in you and me. They assumed that we would guarantee rich dividends from that investment of blood.

We, by word and example of life style, must be committed to the unfinished business of the America that they thought worth dying for.

That we would insure the defense of our Nation; that we would insure the words of Lincoln; that we will care for him who has bore the battle, for his widow and for his orphan and that we will build an America that is worthy of their death.

A society of freedom and justice, because if we do not, we betray those who we honor.

I think this morning of an Indian Marine Lieutenant that I served with twenty years ago in Vietnam. His name was Ty Parnell and he was tall, dark, handsome and very extroverted and much loved by officers and enlisted alike. He happened to be black.

One morning at breakfast I said to him, "Ty, when you get out of the Marine Corps are you going to go into Civil Rights work? I think you would be a natural." This was 1965; Civil Rights action was very significant.

Lieutenant Parnell took his wallet out of his pocket and showed me his wife and young daughter and he said, "No, I am not going into Civil Rights work because I am not getting out of the Marine Corps."

He said, "I am going to be the best Marine Officer in the Corps.

"I am going to be the best husband and best father of any family that you ever knew.

"And I am going to be the best Christian in the church, and that is what I am going to do for my people and my country."

A few days later, marching through the bush, someone tripped a booby trap and shrapnel severed the jugular vein of Lieutenant Parnell. He was very much dead by the time I reached him but I remember very clearly he was propped up against a tree, and as it happened, he was facing east, as though toward America, and his eyes, those large dark eyes, were wide open in the stare of death, and it was as though he beheld a vision.

And I know the vision of Ty Parnell. It's the vision of America where citizens are living today to that unfinished business of creating the perfect society; the vision of the America where people are dedicated to true family life basing unity of America. It was the vision of an America where every citizen walks in the company of the presence of God.

That vision Ty Parnell thought worth dying for. What we celebrate in this ceremony is our own conviction that that vision of America is worth living for.

Thank you.

CONCLUSION OF THE OPENING CEREMONIES

"Sleep Soldier Boy"	The Blue Falcon Chorale
Symbolic Tribute	National Officers
"O Divine Redeemer"	Debby Robert-Beddingfield
"Ave' Maria"	Debby Robert-Beddingfield
"U.S. Air Force Hymn"	The Blue Falcon Chorale
"The Lord's Prayer"	Debby Robert-Beddingfield
"Panis Angelicus"	Debby Robert-Beddingfield
"A Patriotic Medley"	The Blue Falcon Chorale
Benediction	Rabbi Nathan Kaplan, Religious Director, Golden Aces Home
Taps	VFW National Band
"Quest for Peace"	Debby Robert-Beddingfield
"Stand Up! You're an American"	Debby Robert-Beddingfield accompanied by Composer Judy Moore
Retiring of Colors	VFW National Honor Guard
Escorting of Gold Star Parents and Gold Star Wives.	Department of Texas, Ladies Auxiliary.

[Whereupon, the Memorial Service concluded at 11:00 a.m., August 18, 1985.]

23d ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

HONORING ALL-AMERICAN COMMANDERS AND NATIONAL PROGRAM WINNERS

Reunion Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel Sunday, August 18, 1985

Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief, and Glenneta Vogelsang, National President, Ladies Auxiliary, were Host and Hostess of the Twenty-Third Annual Awards Luncheon, 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The Innovation was given by the Reverend Frederick W. Christiansen, National Chaplain.

The menu for the luncheon was Colorburst Salad; Roast Breast of Chicken Nancy with Apple Rum Raisin Dressing and Sauce Grand Marnier; Tomato Provencale; Medley of Fresh Vegetable Julienne; Chocolate Marble Cheese Cake with Chocolate Grand Marnier; Rolls and Butter and Beverage of Choice.

Toastmaster for the event was Norman G. Staab, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

After Presentation of Awards for the National Program Winners and All-American Commanders, the Reverend Frederick W. Christiansen, National Chaplain, gave the Benediction.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

NATIONAL PROGRAMS WINNERS

Americanism.—Post 6587 and Ladies Auxiliary—Spring Lake Park, Minnesota; District 13 and Ladies Auxiliary—Department of California.

Community activities.—Post 6506 and Ladies Auxiliary—Rosedale, Maryland; Post 2346 and Ladies Auxiliary—Saugus, Massachusetts; Post 6587 and Ladies Auxiliary—Spring Lake Park, Minnesota.

Loyalty day.—Post 5290 and Ladies Auxiliary—Conyers, Georgia; Allegheny County Council and Ladies Auxiliary—Department of Pennsylvania; District 2 and Ladies Auxiliary—Department of Minnesota; Department of Connecticut and Ladies Auxiliary.

Youth activities.—Post 2358 and Ladies Auxiliary—Roseville, Michigan; District 1 and Ladies Auxiliary—Department of Wisconsin; Department of Michigan and Ladies Auxiliary.

ALL-AMERICAN DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

Glen A. Rohr, Ohio; Robert J. Lyons, Texas; Tavio Angelo, Pennsylvania; T. William Bossidy, New York; John T. Doonan, New Jersey; Dino Costantini, Michigan; Joseph F. Martin, California; Patrick Bohmer, Minnesota; Edwin H. Shuman, Florida; Arnold Theobald, Missouri; Charles W. Greenan, Jr., Massachusetts; Wayne Smith, Indiana; Ronald P. Green, North Carolina; Casimir Lukoski, Maryland; Ray Smith, Washington; George E. McCracken, Virginia; Dwaine Wilson, Nebraska; Darrel Miller, Iowa; Russell E. Hanlin, West Virginia; Arthur W. Triplett, Sr., Mississippi; Tony A. Wasinger, Colorado; T. D. Culpepper, Georgia; William J. John, South Carolina; Donald A. Esposito, Arizona; Ernest D. Kyzer, Arkansas; Michael Ryan, Vermont; Arthur Streed, North Dakota; Robert Smith, Alaska; Willis T. Alger, Germany.

ALL-AMERICAN COUNTY COUNCIL COMMANDERS

John Dombroski, Southern Tier, New York; Melvin Bennett, Cuyahoga, Ohio.

ALL-AMERICAN DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Ray Bayless, 7, Ohio; Frank A. Jaroszenski, 9, Pennsylvania; Gerald Meyers, 3, Ohio; Ronald W. Kasper, 11, Ohio; Harry E. Burroughs, 21, Florida; Allie Moreau, 1, Mississippi; Charles S. Pearson, 20, Texas; Wayne Brooks, 17, California; Joseph J. Frankowski, 1, Ohio; G.F. "Jerry" Kolb, 20, Pennsylvania; Albert H. Vierling, 7, New Jersey; James M. Leavitt, 5, Indiana; Lawrence J. Martell, 8, Florida; Theodore Moniger, 10, Nebraska; Roscoe R. Staley, 19, Florida; Michael D. Fisher, 3, Arizona; Angelo A. Santella, 2, Massachusetts; Francis L'Hommedieu, 1, South Carolina; Kenneth Stevens, 23, California; Richard D. Priester, 2, Virginia; Tom Pearson, 20, California; Frank J. Deely, 11, Florida; Jim Franks, 4, South Carolina; William R. Miller, 6, Florida; Merlin J. Lazarus, 4, Florida; Harold Hill, 5, North Carolina; Douglas Powell, 2, Maryland; George M. Bain, 3, Virginia; Dwight F. Shoemaker, 17, Florida; William Chapman, Jr., 3, South Carolina; Ulysees Lawson, 8, North Carolina; F.E. Gene Warden, 11, Texas; Charles Wright, 3, Arkansas; Carl Higgins, 20, New Jersey; Perry Hickman, 14, Arkansas.

All-American Post Commanders

Orbit Scott, 1114, Indiana; John Hurney, 628, South Dakota; Lenwood Tant, 8541, Texas; William H. Crowell, 641, South Carolina; Don Williams, 6796, Texas; Vincent P. Reed, Jr., 6712, Massachusetts; Roy Colston, 3962, Mississippi; Joseph Van Bakel, 1475, Texas; Elbert C. Theisen, 9223, California; Robert E. Randall, 3982, California; Thedore Will, 1326, North Dakota; Walter G. Bryan, 4809, Virginia; August L. Scumaci, 10209, Florida; Paul W. Fox, 2111, California; Marion H. Evans, 5996, South Carolina; Albert C. Walsh, 6694, Maryland; Ai C. Hammond, 3073, Alabama; Burnell W. Moul, 2506, Pennsylvania; Harlan C. "Jake" LaBar, 2057, North Carolina; Sanford Rosenthal, 3586, Utah; Gene Westfall, 10097, Florida; Leander P. Carr, 9978, Alaska; Michael T. Gorman, 2097, Connecticut; Bernard J. Feest, 7909, Florida; Fred Bollenberg, 3200, Georgia; Peter Puentes, 6180, Florida; Ira Parks, Jr., 6012, Texas; Lesley J. Louthen, 2380, Florida; Otis Dwight Hawkins, 8093, Florida; Dorris Derrick, 6018, North Carolina; Rhiny Weber, 2764, North Dakota; Kenneth B. Crouch, 10124, New Mexico; W.E. Finch, 4578, Oklahoma; John R. Murray, 3620, New Jersey; Raymond Effinger, 1616, New Jersey; John R. Martin, 10178, Florida; Vernon L. Jones, 10252, Alaska; A. Paul White, 685, Massachusetts; Isaac R. Neeley, 4209, Florida; Bobby G. Canupp, 6480, North Carolina; Danny Woods, 8412, West Virginia; Lyle C. Bxley, 8496, North Carolina; Harry E. Litle, Jr., 7679, New Jersey; Jerry C. Higgins, 10506, Germany; Glen R. Houck, 3433, South Carolina; James C. Rich, 5483, North Carolina; Charles B. Wilkerson, 9808, Virginia; Bobby D. Hoggard, 4517, Arkansas; James D. Fiedler, 10578, Colorado; Robert Joost, 8063, California; John F. Rhodes, 5382, Pennsylvania.

JOINT OPENING SESSION

Monday Morning, August 19, 1985

Opening Ceremonies

[The Joint Opening Session of the 86th National Convention of the Veterans fo Foreign Wars of the United States and the 72nd National convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Dallas Convention Center on Monday, August 19, 1985, by Past Commander-in-Chief Ted C. Connell, Chairman, Board of Directors, VFW 86th National Convention.

[The colors were advanced and posted by the National Guard under the direction of National Sergeant-at-Arms, George F. Sarver, Jr. Following the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem, National Chaplain Frederick Christiansen gave the Invocation.]

Introduction of the Mayor of the City of Dallas

(By Past Commander-in-Chief Ted Connell, National Convention Chairman)

Past Commander-in-Chief Connell. Mayor, on behalf of the delegates here assembled, we would like to give you the official badge to our convention.

Going one step further, I need not tell you now that you are here, that Dallas is one of our premier cities today, and today it's the pleasure of not only myself but the entire Convention Committee to welcome to this podium a real Texan, born and bred, who was elected Mayor of Dallas in April of 1983 after 35 years of managing his own cotton business and a long history of involvement in civic affairs and volunteer service affairs in his city and county and his state.

He is a graduate of Rice University and a World War II Veteran, having served in the United States Navy in the Pacific.

It is a pleasure indeed to introduce to you Mayor of this beautiful and friendly city, the Honorable A. Starke Taylor, Jr.

Remarks of Hon. A. Starke Taylor, Jr., Mayor of City of Dallas

Mayor **Taylor**. Chairman Connell, Distinguished Guests and ladies and gentlemen: We are pleased to be here this morning because your organization is one that I closely identify with.

On behalf of our nearly one million citizens, let me welcome you to our city.

We are real pleased that the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Nation's oldest veterans organization, has chosen Dallas for its 86th National gathering.

Few organizations command the respect the VFW does.

Few organizations span the generations that the VFW does.

From the Spanish American War to Vietnam, few organizations stir patriotic pride the way the VFW does.

With your parade through our streets it is a great example of patriotism that those marchers represented, from so many men who with a little gray hair like mine to the younger veterans from Vietnam, the Auxiliary ladies and youthful drill teams, all proud of our country and proud of their flag.

I understand that Dallas' welcome was warm in more ways than one. August is not our best month. Several people from World War II vintage told our newspapers the parade brought back memories of South Pacific jungles, memories of European campaigns, yet through the entire parade not one man or woman was lost.

That is the type of fortitude and dedication that you will find in Dallas, Texas.

So I know that VFW membership is going fine right here in Dallas. Have a wonderful week.

During the convention you will be working on issues of importance to the VFW and the Nation, including military benefits and improvements of Pentagon procurements and contracting management and Central American policies.

Since the VFW has long been recognized for its commitment and purposes, I am sure differences will be hammered out. The preservation of principles for which this particular group has sacrificed so much will again be a guiding light.

As I mentioned before, the VFW and our city have a lot in common; Dallas and the VFW both reflect traditional American ideals. Dallas and the VFW support those Americans in uniform who defend our National security.

We believe those men and women deserve our respect and appreciation and on one important issue I bet you wouldn't find an assembly any stronger than in Dallas, our POW's and MIA's and the status of those twenty-four hundred seventy Americans still missing, unaccounted for or held prisoners is one of our highest National priorities.

Let me assure you that the VFW has our support for Resolution Number 404, "America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action," a non-negotiable matter of honor. We must not forget those brave Americans.

In between business sessions, I encourage you to see our city. We are the eighth largest city and being projected as the fifth largest city between now and the year 2000. We are not exacly like the popular television series portrays us at all.

We are ahead of the economy. We have a candid spirit and friendly people.

Many VFW members are from Dallas and especially on their behalf, I would like to present this symbol of our city from our city to Chairman Connell.

Welcome to Dallas and enjoy your stay. We hope you will have fond memories of your office as Chairman while you were here in Dallas.

INTRODUCTION OF MAJ. GEN. JAMES T. DENNIS, ADJUTANT GENERAL, STATE OF TEXAS

(By Past Commander-in-Chief Ted C. Connell, Convention Chairman)

Past Commander-in-Chief CONNELL. To bring greetings from our Governor and his personal representative, Major General James T. Dennis, Adjutant General, State of Texas, representing Mark White, Governor:

Sir, on behalf of over two million members of our organization that I know you respect and the Ladies Auxiliary, may we present you with your official badge to this convention.

Adjutant General DENNIS. Thank you, sir.

It is indeed a pleasure that you came to Texas. Welcome on behalf of Mark White, the Governor of Texas. We are honored by your presence among us.

We pride ourselves on an open and friendly state but that's not hard to do to maintain that reputation when you have visitors such as you.

There is an old Scottish saying that welcome is the best dish in the kitchen and certainly the warmest at this moment as we take the opportunity to greet you. You are indeed most welcome hre, and now I would like to read the Official Memorandom from the Governor's office and this is an Official Memorandum by Mark White, Governor of Texas.

"Greetings from us in Texas. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will have its 86th National Convention in Dallas on August 16 through the 23rd.

"We are proud and honored that the VFW has chosen Texas as its site of the convention, and we Texans are very aware of the sacrifices that thousands of veterans have made in order that we can maintain the freedom that we hold so dear.

"Our Nation owes a tremendous debt to all veterans; therefore, I Mark White, Governor of Texas, do hereby call the attention to all Texans to the VFW's 86th National Convention in Dallas, and I extend the best wishes of all Texans for a successful convention.

"In official recognition thereof, I hereby affix my signature this 7th day of August, 1985. Mark White, Governor of Texas."

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF OFFICIAL BADGE TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BILLY RAY CAMERON

Past Commander-in-Chief **CONNELL**. Now, will the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States join me at the podium.

Chief, on behalf of your Convention Committee, we would like to pass on this City of Dallas' token of welcome to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to you.

We would at this time also like to decorate you and on behalf of your entire Convention Committee, we declare that the convention is open and in good working condition and, sir, in your hands.

REMARKS OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF CAMERON

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. Thank you very much, Ted.

Let me say welcome this morning, and we really appreciate the attendance this morning, and we do have ahead what we think is a very, very good program and we hope that you will enjoy it.

Let me, before I introduce our next guest, say a few words as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

You remember back last year when I was elected Commander-in-Chief in Chicago. I made a total commitment to the welfare of all veterans, to their rights and entitlements and to our goal to resolve the POW/MIA problem.

I want to comment to you, Sisters and Comrades, this morning, that as Commander-in-Chief, I gave my very best to achieve these goals.

Many, many hours have been spent in Washington, D.C., lobbying for our entitlements and rights; many, many hours have been spent around the world speaking to various governments and seeking out help on the POW/MIA issue.

I feel in the near future, and I pray that I am right, that the POW/MIA problem will finally be resolved. But, I want you to understand this morning, even though the chairmanship of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee was recently changed, believe me, our problems have not changed.

Several months ago Senator Alan Simpson continued to place the burden of balancing the budget on the backs of wartime veterans.

And if he gets his way, compensation and medical care will only be for those with combat related disabilities.

How many times have we heard him belittle the heroic actions of our comrades who were fortunate enough not to have been wounded in combat?

Let me read to you what he said on the floor of the Senate on May 9, 1985: "You walk up to a guy on the street and say, 'What should we do for the Veterans of the United States?' and he says, 'Anything it takes.' And you say, 'Do you know that millions of them never left the United States, never served over one year and don't have a mortar tube from either end and yet draw every single benefit a combat veteran draws?' "

That is what the former Chairman of the Senate on Veterans Affairs Committee is telling people—you and I both know that's not the way it is.

You show me one veteran who served during a non-combat period and draws any GI Bill benefit, purchased a house with a VA guaranteed loan or is drawing a pension. I sure don't know of any, and I doubt the Honorable Alan K. Simpson does either.

Now, let me read you something Simpson had to say about service-connected disabled veterans: "Millions of them may have been injured by something that happened while looking for a case of lemon extract in the mess tent to finish off a three dayer—that have been drawing a green check for twenty years."

Where does he get off characterizing millions of our service-connected disabled comrades as a bunch of guys who were injured while trying to get over a three-day drunk?

Simpson also sarcastically stated, "For heaven's sake, we have done more for the veterans of the United States than any other group within our society."

We all know that's not true. Congress has done more for themselves than any other group in America. Even if Senator Simpson is right, I say, why not? Our society is number 1—thanks to our veterans.

Under this man's leadership and now Senator Murkowski's, the Republican majority of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee appears to be bound and determined to reduce veterans benefits to save a few bucks by cutting hospital beds, cutting health care personnel, denying health care to all but the poorest veterans; and if you can believe this, actually charging veterans for benefits they have already paid for.

Comrades, take my word for it, we are still in combat with the likes of Senators Simpson and Murkowski who are supposed, and I repeat, supposed to advocates of the veteran.

I assure you the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been an advocate and will continue to be an advocate for all veterans.

Thank you very much.

PRESENTATION OF VFW GOLD MEDAL OF MERIT AND CITATION TO GLENNETA VOGELSANG, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Next is the deep pleasure I have with the opportunity to present the VFW Gold Medal Award and Citation to our National President Glenneta Vogelsang. I shall read the citation:

> "Glenneta Vogelsang, National President, Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW 1984-85, in special recognition of her untiring dedication to our country and the work of our organization and in grateful appreciation for her enthusiastic leadership as evidenced by the significant contributions of the Ladies Auxiliary to our programs and purposes and, by their deeds, fulfillment of their commitment as guardians of liberty.
>
> "In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and the official seal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States this 19th day of August, 1985."
>
> Glenneta, I am proud this morning to present you the VFW Gold Medal of Merit and this citation, and of course, it's signed by myself as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Howard Vander Clute, Adjutant General.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Without the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, you can be sure that the successes we have achieved over the years in all fields of our work probably would never have come about.

Whenever we want help or whenever we want to get something done, whether in a Post or on the National level, you can bet the Ladies Auxiliary will be right by our side working for veterans and for their concerns.

This year, the Veterans for Foreign Wars of the United States has reached a membership total well in excess of two million and a lot of the credit must go to the Ladies Auxiliary.

As we have grown, so has our good right arm. This year, the Ladies Auxiliary has reached a membership total of 720,591. Under the leadership of National President Glenneta Vogelsang, with her Guardians of Liberty, the Ladies Auxiliary made our job easier.

We will be forever indebted to the Ladies Auxiliary.

Glenneta, let me say to the Comardes and Sisters this morning, I could not have had a better National President that I did in Glennata Vogelsang.

God Bless You. Thank you for a job well done, and I am looking forward to the retiring of us both as past presidents. You have been a wonderful president.

Let's give Glenneta Vogelsang a big round of applause.

Remarks of Glenneta Vogelsang, President, Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars

Glenneta Vogelslang. Thank you so very much.

Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, National Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Ladies Auxiliary, Officers, Our Distinguished Guests and Comrades and Sisters: This is a very special honor for me to accept this award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I have been so very fortunate to serve as the National President, but even more so to have the opportunity to serve with a dynamic Commander-in-Chief like Billy Ray Cameron this past year.

It's been an exciting year for me and productive year for our organization.

I want to congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars for recruiting over two million members, and as you heard, the Ladies Auxiliary has reached one hundred percent of their last year's membership. The earliest that we have ever reached it, which was in April, April 4, and we now have a record high of seven hundred twenty thousand five hundred and nintey-one Auxiliary members.

That is a twenty thousand plus gain over last year.

I am so pleased and I thank you.

To brag just a little bit more on my own Auxiliary, that is the highest membership gain we have had since 1977 so we must be doing something right.

I also want to thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron for their assistance and their generous donations to the Ladies Auxiliary cancer research program.

We hope that once again together we may find some relief for this dreaded disease.

We can be very proud of our accomplishment as Guardians of Liberty, and Commander Billy Ray, I say to you, the Ladies of the Auxiliary salute you and thank you for your dedicated leadership to our organization and your excellent support of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Commander-in-Cheif Cameron has been one of the strongest supporters of our Ladies Auxiliary and always speaks of us as a team.

To the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary, I wish for you a most successful convention.

At this time on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I am going to present our National Patriotic Instructor, Helen Lenehan.

PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN FLAGS TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DALLAS

(By National Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor Lenehan)

Instructor **LENEHAN**. National Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, National President Glenneta Vogelsang, Distinguished Guests, Comrades and Sisters:

> I am your flag; merely a piece of cloth, but I am your flag.
>
> I am merely a piece of cloth, but I stand here to wave over battle fields and have flown over beaches as a signal of liberation. I am a welcoming beacon to tired soldiers on foreign fields.
>
> I have been around the world and out in to space casting my shadow across the moon's dusty surface.
>
> I have flown in times of trouble and triumph as a symbol of Americans' unquenchable ideals.
>
> As they were first proclaimed, I was waved over our country, America, over our White House, our churches, schools and from your home and mine, never changing as a symbol of Old Glory, the flag of the United States of America.
>
> My red stands for courage, valor and strength.
>
> The white conveys purity, light and peace.
>
> And my blue represents truth, fidelity and light and is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.
>
> My stripes signify the uniform purpose.
>
> My stars cluster together representing our fifty states dedicated to freedom and democracy.
>
> The sight of Old Glory has given heart, help and strength to Americans ever since that nation was born, and it's flown today as a sign that Americans are proud of their country, are determined to carry the American dream on forever.
>
> When we fly our flag, we affirm our belief in God and in our country.
>
> May God Bless America, home of the Guardians of Liberty so they may increasingly and truly remain, "One Nation under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, I am proud to present today this symbol of a proud and free nation, our country's flag. As it stands in your office, may it be a sound reminder that the flag stands for dignity, freedom and independence.

Two flags will be presented today. I understnd that the Mayor of Dallas has left. Past Commander-in-Chief Ted C. Connell will accept for the Mayor of Dallas, A. Starke Taylor.

Past Commander-in-Chief **CONNELL**. On behalf of the Mayor who had to leave for another appointment, he wishes for me to convey his thanks.

Instructor **LENEHAN**. Accepting for the Governor of the State of Texas Mark White, Major General James Dennis, Adjutant General of Texas.

Major General **DENNIS**. Thank you very much, Helen. I can't think of a more appropriate gift and I will be sure that the Governor received this.

INTRODUCTION OF SUPREME COMMANDER, MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE, BOBBIE BIRDETT

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. It is indeed a pleasure as the Comander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to introduce to you the Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie.

All of us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary are well aware of the magnificent role the Military Order of the Cootie and its Auxiliary play in furthering the goals of our order.

All of us join together in wishing the Military Order of the Cootie a fruitful and productive 66th Supreme Scratch here in Dallas.

Through MOC, thousands upon thousands of hospitalized veterans have been made happier by the MOC's program of "Keeping Them Smiling in Beds of White." And countless numbers of children at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, have had a joyous Christmas because of the Military Order of the Cootie.

It is a pleasure to welcome Bobbie Birdett, the Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie, to speak to you this morning.

REMARKS OF SUPREME COMMANDER BIRDETT

Commander **BIRDETT**. Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray and officers and Council members, National President Glenneta and Comrades and Sisters and Guests:

When I start out I want to tell you all I traveled all over this country this year, and every place that I went I told everybody that we would give you a warm welcome in Dallas and I guarantee you we are giving you one. If you don't believe it wait until the day is over today and you are going to know it. It's going to get warm.

We do want to welcome you to Texas as a Texan. But I am not up here to speak as a Texan. I am up here to speak as a leader of the Military Order of the Cootie. It is a high honor and pleasure on behalf of the 36,000 members of the Military Order of the Cootie and nearly 17,000 members of MOC Auxiliary to be able to participate in this grand session of the National Convention.

We are a small organization and we are often overlooked except when you do see us everybody recognizes us for the loud colors. That is one thing you can always say, if a Cootie comes by, you know him because he is red.

We do stand out in that manner.

First of all, Billy Ray, I want to congratulate you for the over two million members again this year. This is a goal we went for a long time. We hit it and we sure don't want to go down. We are going to keep it going up. I know John will make us look bad. He is going to make us all look bad. John Staum will do a good job.

John, good luck in your year because we know we are going to have a good one.

One of the programs dearest to our heart is of course the National Home. As Billy Ray said, we have upped our scholarships this year. We are now giving three thousand five hundred dollars a year for scholarships which we do have an endowment fund we set up for each member, five hundred dollars a year, so when they come out of college they have two thousand dollars to get started on.

This is something most kids don't have and we thought it was a good idea. Our committee got together and thought of it and we come up with it and believe it will work real good. The young people that come out today even with a college education have a hard time. So getting started is a little better if you have a little money to start. We are helping all we can.

Also, Billy Ray, our booster program has helped out a little bit this year. We had twenty-nine thousand one hundred fifty new and reinstated members signed by the Cooties which is another program we have endeavored to try to help the VFW and its growth.

Our slogan of course is, "keep them smiling in the beds of white." Our hospital program has been outstanding this year and as every year since I have been in the organization we have made 31,000 visits this year which is outstanding.

Over half a million dollars in credit hours so we have been out there trying to keep them smiling in beds of white.

Any of you that have been in the hospital know the Cooties are there. VA hospitals appreciate us to no end because the Cooties do get out and work. We want to help the over fifty-five thousand veterans in hospitals that we have visited. This year has been as good a year as I have seen and better than most.

So I want to offer my congratulations to do down with everybody else's.

I do want to thank you for the opportunity to come up here.

INTRODUCTION OF DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. Next, we will have a greeting from Dallas County Sheriff Jim Bowles.

REMARKS OF DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF JIM BOWLES

Sheriff **BOWLES**. Thank you Commander, officers and members of the VFW and Auxiliary, friends, guests, family.

It's really nice to follow the Mayor. He comes up and says welcome to Dallas. That means welcome to three hundred square miles and eight hundred or nine hundred thousand people.

Let's put the cap on it and say welcome to all of Dallas, to Dallas County and expand it to the million and a half plus, pushing a million seven hundred thousand. We want you to feel welcome.

You are getting the same welcome we gave the Republican National Convention last year.

One year ago next week we welcomed the Republican National Convention. I don't think there was a day we got under a hundred seven. We are trying hard to make you just as welcome. Will you settle for a hundred three?

Just think of it as one offering perhaps in saying the warmth of our heart or warmth of our welcome is matched by our temperature. We are really glad to have you and hope you have a real good time. If you do, please tell all your friends.

If you don't, tell us. We like to have a good handle on what is happening here. We want everybody to feel welcome and as we know in our heart, you need to know that, too.

Thank you.

Introduction of General Cheng Wei-Yuan, Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, the Republic of China on Taiwan

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Sisters and Comrades and ladies and gentlemen: We in the VFW have pledged continuing friendship for our allies of World War II, the Republic of China. We again enjoy the visit of distinguished visitors from that country.

Many of us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars have been to the Republic of China on Taiwan and have seen for ourselves how well the free Chinese have built and developed this island into a bulwark of freedom and a shining example of the benefits of the capitalist system.

Your hospitality to the visitors from the VFW has been magnificient and all of us were made truly welcome. For this our thanks.

Here today, representing his country, the Republic of China on Taiwan, is Cheng Wei-Yuan, the Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for retired servicemen.

General Cheng.

Remarks of General Cheng Wei-Yuan, Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen

General CHENG WEI-YUAN. Commander-in-Chief Cameron, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is my great honor to attend the Opening Ceremony of the 86th Annual National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

On behalf of all the veterans of the Republic of China, I wish to extend our sincere congratulations on this occasion to American veterans, who have come to Dallas from all over the world as delegates to this convention.

Since the government of the Republic of China moved to Taiwan in 1949, there have been many changes in the Far East. We have seen several nations swallowed by Communism, and we have seen the Soviet Union expand its military power beyond legitimate needs of national defense. These unfortunate developments have brought significant concerns to all in Asia.

For many years, the Republic of China and the United States were solid allies. Then, in 1978, President Carter severed diplomatic relations with the Republic of China in order to set up an embassy in Peiping. This was a great shock, but we weathered the storm. The Republic of China owes a special debt to our friends in the United States, including the members of the VFW, who have suported us in times of crisis. We will not forget your acts of friendship.

It must also be remembered that the Republic of China and the United States share many common goals. We both believe in democracy, individual freedom and economic prosperity based on a free enterprise system.

We also believe that all nations have a right to exist without outside interference and foreign domination. We are opposed to Communism, because it represents a fundamental denial of all of the above tenets of government society.

It is for these reasons that, in all our relations with the United States and its people, whether they be in the economic, social, political or strategic level, the Republic of China intends to act as a responsible partner. We are convinced that cooperation between our two countries is in our best interests. Any differences which arise between us can be settled in an amicable fashion, because we share similar goals and aspirations.

The Republic of China has much to offer the United States in these times of uncertainty, and we are hopeful that our relationships will continue to improve in the future. We are eager to expand trade and diplomatic contacts. For our common benefit, we need to greatly expand our military relationships. We have always kept the door open for our American friends to again become our formal allies. Our extensive air bases and naval bases are among the best in the Far East and are available for use by U.S. Forces.

Over the past few years, we have seen national veterans organizations play a greater role in international affairs. We are especially proud that the relationship between VACRS and the VFW has continuously grown closer. Your support and encouragement have been most welcome and show that people-to-people diplomacy is an especially effective method of promoting peace, freedom and stability.

In closing, I would again extend my congratulations and best wishes for a most successful convention.

PRESENTATIONS TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BILLY RAY CAMERON

General CHENG. Now we would like to take this opportunity to do a couple presentations. First one is from our National President.

So to present a declaration I have the honor to read it—"Mr. Billy Ray Cameron, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, has distinguished himself by offering outstanding considerations to the development of the friendly ties between Veterans organizations of the United States and the Repubic of China."

Second one is from myself. A silver plate with the inscription: "Presented to Mr. Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in appreciation of outstanding contribution to the strength of brotherhood between VFW and Veterans by General Cheng, Chairman, Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China, August 19, 1985."

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you very much. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF GEN. SEOK-CHU PAIK, PRESIDENT, KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Those of us who fought in Korea shoulder-to-shoulder with our Korean Allies will never forget their courage and their determination to live in freedom. Nor did we in the Veterans of Foreign Wars stand by helplessly when it was proposed that the Republic of Korea be stripped bare of American combat troops. We had too much at stake to permit this to happen.

Our VFW officers have been to Korea recently and we know well the fantastic strides the Koreans have made under free enterprise. While there, we were made to feel welcome by the Korean Veterans Association. Their hospitality is far beyond what we would have expected if we had not known the warmth and kindness and generosity of the Korean people.

It is with gratitude that I welcome the President of the Korean Veterans Association, General Seok-Chu Paik.

REMARKS OF GENERAL SEOK-CHU PAIK

General **SEOK-CHU PAIK**. Commander-in-Chief Cameron, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. On the occasion of the 86th annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I am highly honored today to have an opportunity to deliver a message of greetings to you on behalf of four million members of the Korean Veterans Association. In particular, I am personally very pleased to meet all of you for the first time since I took the office of the President of the Korean Veterans Association last February.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for your unsparing support and effort so far extended for the defense of the Republic of Korea and to convey the warm friendship and greetings of all the members of the Korean Veterans Association.

As you well know, Korea and the United States have maintained traditional friendly ties for over one hundred years. These ties, forged in blood during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, are further strengthened with the presence of over 40,000 of America's finest young men and women who today stand guard at the edge of freedom, together with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea preserving peace and stability not only on the Korean peninsula but in Northeast Asia as well.

Dear friends, it is well known the Korean people were never driven to despair by our nation's total destruction in the war, rather we have been striving with national unity to build a peaceful and bountiful nation by the onset of the 21st century. I believe you are well aware that Korea under the situation of a technical cessation of hostilities, not under termination of hostilities, has spent more than 30 years simultaneously rebuilding the nation and strengthening the national defense, coping with many hardships and difficulties.

The North Korean Communist clique did not favorably answer our continued overtures for the South-North dialogue until they had finished their preparations for another war. Still they are eager to find the best timing to use their military muscle. However, peace-loving Korea has been exerting sincere efforts to peacefully solve the South-North problems. We will continue our overtures until permanent peace settles on the Korean peninsula and thus contribute to stability in the Pacific and Northeast Asia Regions.

Your strenuous support and cooperation for peace, freedom and prosperity in this area always gives courage and hope to the Korean people, in their daily confrontation with North Korea, the most outrageous political bandit in the world. I earnestly hope you will give us your unwavering support to our sincere efforts to keep peace as you did in the past.

In closing, I pledge to exert every effort to maintain and enhance the existing friendly ties between our two organizations forged by my predecessors and to leave this legacy for the coming generations to inherit.

I hope your convention will prove a productive and reqarding one and wish everlasting progress to your great organization. God bless you and your families.

Thank you.

PRESENTATION TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BILLY RAY CAMERON

General SEOK-CHU PAIK. This plaque is presented to Mr. Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in recognition of a dedicated contribution to the support of the National security of the Republic of Korea and promotion of the friendly relations between the two organizations, 1985, Dallas, Texas, August 19. Signed by General Seok-Chu Paik.

PRESENTATION OF VFW CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. In the year 1909, William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher, became lost in the fog in London, but was led to his destination by a British youth who was a member of the British Scouts. The young lad refused to take any reward for his help.

Mr. Boyce was so moved by this experience, that in 1910 in Washington, D.C., he founded the Boy Scout movement in the United States.

It is estimated that over the past seventy-five years, more than 70 million American men have recited this familiar Scout oath. "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars can take pride in the fact that there are over 1,200 Boy Scout Troops across the country sponsored by VFW Posts, and that those troops represent over 30,000 boys.

In addition, each year our organization provides twelve VFW members, presently active in Scouting, the opportunity to attend a week long Wood Badge training course designed to help them become more effective leaders in the Scouting movement.

For these reasons and because of our pride in association with this outstanding organization, we are honored to recognize the Boy Scouts of America on its 75th Anniversary, and we are indeed honored to have with us this morning to accept this commendation, a gentleman, who just seven and one-half months ago, became only the eighth man to hold this prestigious position.

Comrades and Sisters, ladies and gentlemen, and Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Ben H. Love, to accept this award.

Certificates of Appreciation presented to Boy Scouts of America

In commemoration of its Diamond Jubilee and in special recognition of seventy-five years of distinguished service to the Nation evidenced by its sustained leadership training programs for the youth of America. Scouting's motto 'Be Prepared' exemplifies BSA's role in preparing America's youth for service to God and Country and installing in youth the importance of keeping 'physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.'

"In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and the official seal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, this 19th day of August, 1985."

Signed by Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief and Howard Vander Clute, Adjutant General.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we are very, very proud of the many, many years Veterans of Foreign Wars has been in support of the Boy Scouts, and we hope you will take this certificate back to you home office and hang it and be proud of it.

We are very, very proud of the Boy Scouts.

Remarks of Chief Scout Executive, Ben H. Love

Ben H. Love. Commander-in-Chief, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, delegates to this National Convention, if you will permit me, those of you who have been scouts or are still scouts or scouters.

On behalf of the Boy Scouts of America, it is a real pleasure that I accept this Certificate of Appreciation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I accept it for more than just recognition, but I accept it because of the pride that we have in service together for many years in America's youth.

I am sure that you have the same feeling that I have when I saw the American flag coming down the center of this convention. I had chills down my back.

Thank God for men and women like you who have given of themselves to make it possible to have freedom in America and so the Boy Scouts of America can exist and continue to teach young people to have pride in the greatest country that there is in this world today.

Thank you very, very much.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. At this time I am going to call on Ted Connell, our Convention Chairman, for a special introduction of a special gentleman to all Past Chiefs that served Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Presentation VFW Distinguished Service Medal and Citation to Leopolt R. Malyszko, National Master Sergeant-at-Arms

National Convention Chairman Connell. I would like to digress and tell a story. Twenty-five years ago on an official trip to Europe, I was called home and given a briefing and asked that the Veterans of Foreign Wars make an announcement that was absolutely necessary in the opinion of our government and it had to do with the missiles in Cuba.

I cut short my visit and flew to Boston, Massachusetts, and because of the situation, I asked Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Bob Hansen to join me there, and I will ask him to join me here at this moment.

We had made the announcement and released the pictures of the missiles in Cuba when we met in Boston. Immediately on landing from Europe, Bob Hansen joined me there and he brought to me a story that he had found an outstanding individual within our organization to be the National Sergeant-at-Arms, and he and I made the decision and that man is still serving us today. It is appropriate that we honor this man for whom Texas holds a special place here in Texas. He is our National Master Sergeant-at-Arms, Paul Malyszko. Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms, would you escort him here.

Would you present to this podium our Master Sergeant-at-Arms for this presentation.

While doing so, many of you have noticed that when he served on the floor, on his right sleeve he wears the 36th Division National Guard patch where he served in World War II.

Although he is from Massachusetts his first National Convention as Sergeant-at-Arms was in Miami in 1961. It was my convention.

In a recent letter to the Adjutant General, Paul recalls the many kindnesses extended he and his wife Dottie by myself and Bob Hansen when he was Commander-in-Chief and all of the succeeding Commanders-in-Chief that Paul has served so well.

He wrote and I quote, "hard work has its reward; the enjoyment of learning about the VFW was and is an unforgettable part of my life.

"Even though as one grows older, energy fades somewhat, but my desire and dedication remains steadfast."

Paul, it can be said, never wavered from his devotion to this organization or in his performance of his duties on the convention floor or any other service he has been asked to perform by the Adjutant General or his Commander-in-Chief.

I yield to Bob Hansen.

Past Commander-in-Chief HANSEN. It is with a great feeling of pride and appreciation that I have been given the honor to join with Ted here on this podium today to pay tribute to this great person who has served our organization so well for so many years.

I want to say on behalf of all of those of you who served today and served before under Paul, no man is irreplaceable, but you have some great shoes to fill when Paul leaves.

Thank you very much.

National Convention Chairman CONNELL. And to show the great feeling that the Commander-in-Chief has for this presentation, would the past Commanders-in-Chief who Paul has served under stand with us for this presentation, please. All of us who have ever attended a National Convention over the years have been impressed by the very immaculate condition of his uniform and those of his staff.

His dignity as he escorted officers and honored guests to the dais. His courtesy at all time to our wives and families when we didn't have time to give them proper consideration.

He has set a standard, in our opinion, and I speak for all of the Chiefs, I am sure, that all future National Sergeants-at-Arms will look to as they carry out this very important duty.

It is our honor to ask the Commander-in-Chief to present Paul Malyszko with the VFW Distinguished Service Award and Citation.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. "In sincere appreciation and grateful recognition of a quarter century of distinguished and unselfish service to the officers and delegates of the National Conventions ands Conferences of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, fulfilling with unparalleled dignity; indisputable discipline and impeccable protocol, the duties and responsibilities of the office of National Sergeant-at-Arms of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and the official seal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, this 19th day of August, 1985."

Signed Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron and Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute.

Paul, thank you.

National Convention Chairman CONNELL. Before he speaks, we also wish to present him with the first cap of its kind stating on the side "National Master Sergeant-at-Arms Emeritus." Paul, congratulations.

REMARKS OF NATIONAL MASTER SERGEANT-AT-ARMS PAUL MALYSZKO

National Master Sergeant-at-Arms MALYSZKO. Commander-in-Chief, Officers, Ladies Auxiliary, distinguished guests, delegates and members attending the 86th National VFW Convention:

It does not seem appropriate to me merely to say thank you for this recognition award of my humble efforts as your Sergeant-at-Arms for the past twenty-five years.

With your indulgence may I please reiterate some of the contents and feelings of my letter of reply to our Adjutant General and Past Commander-in-Chief Howard Vander Clute after being informed of this part of our convention agenda.

"Dear Howard:

"Your letter of June 26 received and understood. Thank you for your kind, generous words of gratitude and for your help in keeping me on the team. As to the Sergeant's Staff, although we only met officially twice a year, we did perform as a team at our jobs with dedication and seriousness. I am gratified that our National Staff of Officers can remember this contribution in effort and love for our VFW principles and programs.

"I have been honored and privileged to serve many leaders of our veterans organization in the past 25 years; meeting many others and serving with countless committee directors and members.

"It was as though I was in training and in school again. There was so much to learn. With so many superb instructors and officers I am content to see and enjoy the satisfying result of my tenure as your Sergeant-at-Arms.

"All our staff has contributed admirably and I am proud to say that each one has the leadership quality to perform the necessary tasks of a Sergeant-at-Arms.

"Our newly appointed leader of the Sergeant's staff, George Sarver, has the experience and caliber needed to continue the excellent performance of our group and I feel sure that he will satisfy our VFW delegates and officers.

I thank him for his steadfast support in the past and wish for him and our staff good health and best wishes for the future. I offer, if needed, my assistance, always.

"During the term of the Chief, Ted Connell, 1960–61, and on his official visit to Massachusetts, accompanied by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Bob Hansen, he observed the work that Joe Scerra who later became Commander-in-Chief and I performed at the annual award presentations in Boston. I was appointed National Sergeant-at-Arms by Ted at that time and my first convention duty was at the Miami convention in August of 1961.

"It was a trying experience but much knowledge was provided to me during the convention which was retained. We did the work with only a couple of men then.

"Ted was most helpful and gracious to me and my wife, Dottie, during this first convention and I thank him for his kindness in the succeeding years, 1962 in particular.

"I was favored with similar acts of courtesy by Commander-in-Chief Bob Hansen in Minnesota. It was a wonderful job. The hard work had its reward, the enjoyment of learning about the VFW was and is an unforgettable part of my life and even though I realize as one grows older the energy and perseverance fades somewhat, but the desire and dedication remain steadfast. All of us, I feel sure, will face similar emotions in days to come.

"As I called him a tough First Sergeant our late Past Adjutant General Julian taught me and our staff the fundamentals of our jobs. He, like our present Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute, being our Executive Officer and mentor, taught us humility and directed us to the successful completion of each program phase of our business agenda. We remember these important lessons.

"Our convention Director Art Vater who assumed the duties of the many varied and complex phases of our conventions from the late Director Adrian Grobsmith has amazed all of us with his stamina and ability to promote and complete successfully each annual convention.

"It has been a great privilege to work with Art and my wife Dottie joins me in thanking him and his family for the intimacy and many courtesies extended to us by all of the Vates during the past 25 years.

"As I express thanks to all our National staff of workers and committee officers, special gratitude is extended to our recently retired Quartermaster General Al Cheatham. His assistance, guidance and support to our Sergeant's staff was most appreciated.

"The cooperative liaison which has been in existence for the past 25 years with the National Honor Guard and Sergeant-in-Arms Staff is a fine example of teamwork in our VFW family and I am proud of this.

"Finally, as I thank our chair officers for their consideration of my contributions to our wonderful organization may I extend my personal thanks to all of you who attend our annual conventions and conferences. I have shared some of them with you. Your respect and military appreciation of our Sergeants' efforts has been in the truest tradition of well trained servicemen and I pray that part of our offerings will not be transferred to a civilian status.

"The memorial service, parade and business sessions should be performed in military uniform by us.

"The National Officers of the future, may I reiterate now in 1985–86, we have a nucleus of knowledgeable, capable, and ingenious, innovative leaders to whom the VFW, our proud and glorious outfit, must rely on for continued progress.

"Thank God our two million twenty thousand members have men of this rewarding experience and success to count on for clout in the future.

"As some of us fade away, other younger, energetic, enthusiastic, fine, fighting men can step in and carry the torch, the burning flame of fraternity and brotherhood that was so evident in combat overseas that kept us going forward.

"As Veterans of Foreign Wars our organization needs this; surely our country needs this. Please help to keep this flame alive, this torch of desire active."

God bless you and thank you for your respect and for allowing me to serve you in my small way for the past 25 years.

May I at this time take a moment to present my Judge Advocate, my Parliamentarian, Aide-de-Camp, and my friend, my lover, my VFW companion since 1947, thirty-eight years, my companion in the Veterans of Foreign Wars travels, my adorable wife, Dorothy.

I could not have done this without her, as you all know. All of you connected with the VFW are well aware of how important a wife is who gives you a shot of adrenaline when you need it and we need it many times.

May I at this time present to you our National Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms:

George Sarver from Pennsylvania who is now our National Sergeant-at-Arms.

From the State of Minnesota, a man who next year will have observed his twenty-five years also, Joe Schirmers from Minnesota.

From the State of Connecticut, Nick Polansky.

From the State of Michigan, Fred VonHinken.

From the State of California, Walter Hamilton.

From the State of Massachusetts, Carl Aiello.

Also on our staff is a man who has a sickness in his family, his fourteen month old baby is having a very serious problem and they are trying to correct the situation with an operation and so he has not found it possible to attend this convention, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Gary Bowden, from North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF GEN. JOHN W. VESSEY, JR., CHAIRMAN, THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. At this time I am going to call on our National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John Staum for the purpose of an introduction of General Vessey who is from Minnesota and has been a personal friend of Senior Vice Commander Staum for many, many years. John Staum our National Senior Vice Commander.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief STAUM. Comrades, to keynote the opening of the 86th National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we have selected a man of superb reputation on the battlefield in Washington, a Life Member in our great organization.

It is widely known that General John W. Vessey, Jr., has been the most influential Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff since General Marshall in the Second World War.

But you may not know that General Vessey is a second generation member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. General Vessey's father was one of the founders and leaders of the VFW in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the 1920's and General Vessey has been a life member of the VFW for many years.

General Vessey appears before us today as the senior military officer of the Armed Forces of the United States and is one of the most experienced military leaders on active duty. He began his service to this country before World War II when he enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard.

General Vessey was called to active duty in 1941 and rose though the ranks to be First Sergeant of an artillery battery that served in North Africa and Italy.

On the Anzio Beachhead in 1943, First Sergeant Vessey successfully led the defense of his battery when they came under a heavy tank and infantry attack. In recognition of his outstanding leadership under fire, he was promoted with a Battlefield Commission to Second Lieutenant by order of General Mark Clark.

Since then, General Vessey's reputation as an outstanding military leader has continued to grow in a wide range of demanding assignments.

He served as an artillery commander in Vietnam where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, this nation's second highest award for valor on the battlefield.

His reputation grew even more as Deputy Chief of the Joint Military Advisory Group in Thailand; as Commander of the 4th Infantry Division; and as Commander of the 8th U.S. Army, U.S. Forces in Korea, and as Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations command in Korea.

In 1979 General Vessey was called home from Korea to become the Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army and in June, 1982, he was selected by President Reagan to be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After forty-six years of active military service, General Vessey will be returning to his home in Crow Wing County, Minnesota, this fall. His forty-six years of service, spanning three wars, represents a lifelong commitment to this country and to the preservation of our national security.

General Vessey, with all those years of service, you probably think you have seen everything and that nothing comes as a surprise to you anymore.

Well, General, it may be a surprise for you to learn that you have not only been chosen as the Keynote Speaker here today, but that your fellow veterans of those three wars have chosen to honor you with the VFW's Gold Medal of Merit and Citation for your distinguished service.

And so, General Vessey, if you will join me at the podium, it will be my special privilege to act on behalf of over two million of your comrades in honoring you with this presentation.

Remarks of General Vessey

General **Vessey**. Thanks, John, and thanks to Commander-in-Chief Cameron and thanks to the band.

It is a delight to be here. I'd just like to pay tribute to your Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, for the service that he has perfomed over this past year as I watched him and the National Council exert the influence of the VFW on our National Security policy, and I would say to him "well done."

Needless to say I am very pleased that a fellow from Minnesota is going to take his place.

John and I had the privilege to share a platform in St. Paul a week ago last Saturday to honor the Veterans of all wars and certainly the presence of the new Commander-in-Chief of the VFW there added a lot of dignity to that ceremony.

I realize that I am a substitute for the President here and I am genuinely sorry that the President couldn't make it because I for one would a lot rather have traveled to Dallas to hear the President than to travel here to hear me, but on the other hand I think that all of you will join me in thanking God for the President's remarkable recovery from his surgery and I think that if you and I have to listen to somebody else at this convention, it is a small price to pay if we can insure his complete recovery.

As for me, I am always happy to be in Dallas. It is an exciting city but I am particularly proud to be here with the fellow members of the VFW, that wonderful outfit that epitomizes the willingness of Americans to make the sacrifices necessary to do as the Preamble of the Constitution says: "Secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our prosperity."

But getting me as a substitute for the President is sort of like the old Minnesota story I told at the convention in New Orleans in 1983. Not that all my jokes are Minnesota jokes, but I had been warned not to tell ethnic stories about living ethnic groups. The previous chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had gotten into trouble over that.

So I tell the story about the Hittites now and the story—it is necessary to know that the Hittites disappeared from the earth about 750 B.C. so it's apparently safe.

This particular story is about two Hittite ladies waiting for the street car on the corner in Minneapolis.

One of them turned to the other one and she said, "My, that is a beautiful diamond you have got there."

And the other one says, "That is the famous Norquis diamond."

The first one said, "Oh, there must be a story with that."

Yes, it comes with a curse."

The other lady said, "Oh, what is the curse?

And she said, "Mr. Norquis."

Of course, the curse of coming to Dallas in 1985 is that you have to listen to me instead of the President.

But I bring you greetings from the Secretary of Defense and greetings from the fellow members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and from all three million members of the Armed Forces, two million of that in the Guard and reserve.

As John said my tradition with VFW runs rather deep. My dad fought with the Rainbow Division as a Squad Leader of World War I and after the war he helped organize the Oscar and John Soberg Post 210 in Lakeville, Minnesota. The VFW and the Womens Auxiliary there were an important part of the community, just like the VFW Posts all over this Nation today.

And I am just as proud of my membership in Post 246 as my dad was.

I guess I am particularly proud that what will probably be my last major speech in active duty uniform will be given to the VFW.

I guess I might say that anybody whose only speeches are on tank helicopters, on tank helicopter maintenance and re-enlistments might not be in the category of major speeches at all.

When I last spoke to the convention in 1983 the improvements in the strength of our Armed Forces were just beginning to develop. There was still an awful lot of squawking about the defense buildup.

Much has happened in those two years since then. And I want to tell you there have been phenomenal improvements in the capability of our armed forces and because, as I tell the uniformed people in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, there is more going on today in the way of adding more than equipment, improving the training and improving the tactical doctrine of ability of armed forces to work together as a team and work with our allies than there ever has been before in history.

I want to tell you that we have got intelligent, highly dedicated people wearing the uniforms of the active forces, the guard and reserves to get those improvements made as long as they continue to get the support of you and the rest of the American people.

The VFW can certainly share the credit for the improvements that have been made in our armed forces because it wouldn't have been possible without the support of the people like you who have pushed that defense buildup.

As I look back on the issues then and where we are today, I see we have come a long way. Let's look at some examples: I want to tell you that we were absolutely not prohibited by lack of room for improvement. Your 1984-1985 security goals were right on the mark when you said we ought to push for eight percent GNP. We are not going to get there. We are not going to get there in the near future certainly. In fact it will level out at about six and a half percent.

It will call for extra work on the part of all us that have anything to do with National Defense to make sure those defenses remain reasonably strong.

In 1983 your security goals for that year expressed a great deal of concern about Central America. Our friends in the region were uncertain of our Nation as an ally and they were hard pressed by foreign-supported Marxist-Leninist insurgency.

Today, the free nations of the region have renewed confidence in the United States as an ally; the guerrillas in El Salvador are on the run and their forces are shrinking; and democracy throughout Latin America is growing.

There have been over 15 elections in the last two years and in a region where over two-thirds of the governments were once authoritarian, over 90 percent of those people are now under civilian democratic rule.

We improved our security assistance to the countries of Central America and they have made progress of their own security situation as a result of that help we have given them. The Armed Forces of El Salvador, helped by the democratic election of a government of that country, is making great strides in the war against communist supported insurgency. Just two years ago at the convention we were looking at weapons exchanged between the government forces in El Salvador and the insurgency that were about three weapons lost by the government for every one weapon lost by the insurgency.

Now we are looking at something that is over for weapons lost by the insurgency for about every weapon lost by the government forces, an indicator of the improved discipline capabilities of those armed forces.

Your pressure and support has been important but again I would tell you there is more to be done.

Honduras, Guatemala and they all need security help. All the countries of Central America need help in telling Nicaragua they don't want a spreading Marxist cancer in Central America.

All the countries need economic help. We need to get on with what the Bipartisan Commission told the Congress and press two years ago.

You expressed concern two years ago about the problem of our POW's and MIA's.

I want to tell you that in the Joint Chiefs of Staff we have also continued to express concern about results in that problem, but I will also tell you that I am personally frustrated with the behavior of the Vietnamese government, of the slowness of getting the problem resolved. At the same time I must also tell you that there is progress and that we have got an adminstration and the President that wants to get the problem moving and continues to work at it and we are moving.

In 1983 you also called for strengthening JCS. I want to tell you there have been a number of Congressional Hearings and a whole bunch of studies produced since then and useful ideas and useful changes to law that have come about.

But the basic lesson that I have drawn in the intervening two years is that providing good military advice to the President and the Secretary of Defense and National Security Council is hard work that the JCS just need to work hard at.

There are assigned taxes. In 1983 I told you that I thought the Nation had four good Chiefs, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, and I am telling you here today that working with them two more years confirmed that belief and I want to tell you they have worked very hard to improve their own operation and to improve the way the service is operating together, in other words to provide a cohesive team on the battlefield and to eliminate unnecessary overlap and duplication and try to give the tax payer a fair shake for the tax dollars.

Those members of the Joint Chiefs have dedicated themselves to doing that job without public fanfare or press announcements about what they have done and I am pleased with the willingness to work together and the rest of the difficult security issues that the Nation faces, and I just want to tell you that I told the President and Secretary of Defense when it came to choosing my replacement, he had a least five good candidates and he could play spin the bottle if he wanted to and whichever one came up would be a good candidate to take my place.

I want to tell you he has a chosen a very fine man to do it and one who will lead the senior military advisors as well.

The VFW continues to support an adequate system of paid compensation and retirement for the Armed Forces.

In 1983 we had a lot of citizens that had the misdirected notion that military retirement was just another pension plan and that our Veterans were getting fat at tax payers' expense.

Now I want to tell you that is baloney. The VFW helped. The VFW helped dispel that myth.

We have three million extraordinary young Americans all around the world that do extraordinary important things for our security and they spend weeks on end at sea and fly aircraft at phenomenal speed and altitudes and crawl through barbed wire and patrol the demilitarized zones of Korea and patrol the deserts of Sinai and spend months on end in ships in the Iranian Sea.

I say to you if we want those young Americans to continue to do those extraordinary things for our security, then we have got to make a pledge to them so that they are going to get a square deal when it comes to pay and retirement.

Exactly the same thing is true of support for solving the issue of POW and MIA and that is very important for morale. They see themselves being in the same position in later years possibly. The same is true for proper suppport and help for veterans because the people in the Armed Forces see themselves as being, possibly being veterans later on and so, on behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and those three million men and women in the Armed Forces I want to thank you for your support for a strong National defense. And again I want to say that now is not the time to slack off on that suppport. Maintaining strong National defense is like having fresh bread at the bakery shop. If you want to keep it fresh the baker knows he has to make it every day or he is going to have stale bread and the same thing is true for a strong defense.

It requires continuing commitment, healthy Armed Forces, because this world we live in is a troubled place. There is no escaping that fact. There are some twenty wars going on in the world today and there have been over 25 million people killed in wars since the end of World War II. There are all sorts of factors that contribute to instability in the world but the massive military buildup of the Soviet Union over the last 25 years is perhaps the major factor.

Some years ago one author said, "Look eastward to that prison house of peoples, Russia." And he said, "There is only one way of dealing with Russia and that is the way of courage."

That author was Karl Marx himself. Many years later another author wrote something similar. He said, "The Soviets view their relationship with the West as played not in the spirit of cooperation, but with a competitive zeal disigned to further Soviet interests at the expense of the opposition—recognizing that the Soviet Union approaches issues from a different orientation—the United

States should bolster its will and rise to the challenges with a degree of resolve in terms of comprehensible to the Soviet Union. It should avoid any unilateral restraint and accommodations because this type of behavior is interpreted by the Soviet Union not as an invitation to cooperation but as an opportunity which must be exploited."

Those wise words are from the Master's thesis of Major Arthur Nicholson when he finished the Naval Post Graduate School in 1980. As you know, Major Nicholson was murdered by a Soviet soldier last March. And I am pleased the VFW honored his memory and his wife, Karen, here at this convention on Sunday morning.

Just a few days ago, the world looked back on the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II. And we can be pleased and happy that we haven't had World War III. Why haven't we had one? I would say that the reason is fairly simple.

Out of the destruction of World War II we drew a western security concept of defense involving the free nations of the world and that has helped keep what peace we have. Certainly it has not become a compeletly peaceful 40 years; but we have not had a world war, and we have been successful in guarding our liberties.

Sometimes, our nation forgets what was won for them in battle. Sometimes, our citizens overlook the lessons of the past.

Certainly, there have been a lot of changes in the world in the 40 years since the end of World War II. The change that impresses me most is that the world has grown smaller. Nations have become far more numerous. There were about 60 dependent nations at the end of World War II. Last year, some 140 countries were represented in the Los Angeles Olympics and we have developed close ties with many of these nations.

We have become dependent on foreign markets for our goods. In 1939, the year that I first put on a uniform, the United States was a net exporter of oil—about 20,000 barrels a day, not much by today's standards but we were in fact an exporter. Last year we imported over three million barrels of oil every day; and that is only one of the many examples of how we are inextricably tied to the rest of the world.

The world has changed in other ways, too. Our enemies during World War II—Japan and Germany—are now our Allies while the Soviet Union has become an implacable foe. We talk about the U.S. Army building up to 28 divisions; but the Soviets have some 200 divisions; and they have begun to flex their maritime might off our very shore.

They're armed to the teeth, but they are a one-dimensional power—military only. Certainly, they have problems of their own. No one is trying to "escape" to the Soviet Union. Their economy is in chaos; the political system is bankrupt; and, as I often say, they are the only nation surrounded by hostile communist neighbors—but they recently have infused some semblance of life into the Politburo and they are, in fact, a great military power that presents a significant threat to the United States.

In 1941, when we got into World War II, we had only a few forces involved at the outset. It took us over a year to get sizeable forces into combat. My outfit fired the first American artillery round against the Germans in World War II, but that was 11 months after we got into the war.

If war starts with the Soviet Union, over 40 percent of our military forces will be engaged immediately, on the first day. In 1941, America wasn't attached and the majority of the American population was safe. That's not the case now. We live with the constant threat of thousands of highly accurate Soviet missiles pointed at us daily.

Despite these changes, history holds a valuable lesson for us. We remember the 1930's when the world was steering toward war. At that time, Mr. Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of Britain, said, "How incredible it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas masks here in England because of a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing." Then he went on to say, "I myself am a man of peace to the depths of my soul."

He was a man of peace; but, Czechoslovakia lost its freedom and Britain got war anyway. Many people then like many people today had the idea that defense appropriations were too high. I'll tell you that they weren't stupid or disloyal people, but they were wrong—dead wrong.

They hadn't learned from H.L. Mencken that, "There is no record in history of a nation that ever gained anything valuable by being unprepared to defend itself." Or, as Winston Churchill said, "We can afford what we need for defense, but we cannot afford to say that we can afford only what is easy to provide."

I thank VFW for continuing to tell the American people you must provide what is needed.

I want to make it clear that I don't think we should march around looking for war. Like Chamberlain, I am a man of peace. And I suspect that every Veteran is, too. I remember a famous Bill Mauldin cartoon from World War II.

Willie and Joe were all dirty from too many days in muddy foxholes. Along comes a completely clean soldier, looking mean and war-like. Willie turns to Joe and says, "That can't be no real combat soldier, Joe. He's actually lookin fer a fight."

But, we have learned that weakness is provocative, and that we must be strong to secure the peace.

Our first President, George Washington, was saying just that when he said, "If we desire to secure the peace, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war."

The United States has a defensive strategy. We don't want a nuclear war; we don't want a conventional war, but we don't want the fear of war dominating our lives as we go about our business. We need strong Armed Forces. It is a part of our strategy called "deterrence."

Deterrence is a fancy Washington word that means you pick a fight with us and you are likely to get your clock cleaned.

Thanks to the support of people of organizations like the VFW our defenses have all been rebuilt remarkably over the last few years. What has happened is that we have proved that good people are at the heart of good Armed Forces. We have provided them with better equipment, and we have improved the training. Now, no one of those ingredients alone is enough to have good Armed Forces; but, the three together have made some remarkable improvements in the Armed Forces of the United States. I would like to cite a few examples:

In the bombing contest this year for the Air Force, the F-16 fighter with a lone crew member gets better accuracy with dumb iron bombs than the fighter it replaced did with a crew of two and with laser-guided, "smart" bombs a few years ago and with a crew of one with the F-16 in contrast to the crew of two in the old airplane.

They can fly far more and the aircraft run far more often and they are far more capable of doing their job every day and they hit better and carry more arms.

And another example is the tank force: 1980 or 1981 or 1982 we were begging and fighting for the new M-1 tank over great opposition and now there are about twenty-eight hundred in the field and for you old tankers, I want to tell you the first-round hits at ranges of two thousand meters have gone from fifty-three percent with the old tank to eighty-three percent with the new. That is a phenomenal improvement in capability.

I saw the Commander of the forces in Europe the other day and he told me on the new tank, crew qualification range of that tank moving at night has to take on two targets at ranges of over fifteen hundred meters; one target, moving target and the other target is a stationary target and they have to hit both in fourteen seconds while the tank is moving.

If you World War II tankers remember some of the turkeys we moved around in—those today, think of trying on that one today and the same is true with the equipment in the Navy and Marine Corps which is about nine times the air defense effectiveness of naval battle and improvements made in the Guard and the Reserves. We expect more from our National Guard and the Reserves than we have ever had before and they have proven up to the task. Our improved capability is one of the reasons we have peace today and if we keep that up, we insure the peace both for ourselves and for posterity.

I finally learned after about 46 years with three million men and women in the uniform, no matter how dumb it is or innocent it is, we have got somebody out there doing it. When you have got people paying four hundred dollars for a hammer or whatever it happens to be, you have got dumb people out there.

Somebody is going to do something dumb today but I want to tell you ninety-point ninety-nine percent of them are out there busting their tails trying to do things right.

If we paid four hundred bucks we ought to get beat with the hammer. We ought to get beat around the ears. Nobody mentioned the eight-two hammers we bought for six dollars and forty cents.

As I said, I told the Secretary of Defence—he said we have got to do something about the complaints. We'll lose the confidence of the people. And I said, you know, we are always going to be complained about. Three years ago they were complaining the M-1 would tip over in the water. Not now. At least we proved to everybody that isn't true. It is a wonderful piece of machinery. We were being complained about because the tank wouldn't work and the engine was a turkey. Now today we get ninety percent operation of that tank and so maybe it's better that they complain about it.

I would like to talk about one other aspect of our defense which is nuclear weapons and our strategic nuclear deterrent force.

Many of us would like to stick our heads in the sand about nuclear weapons. What I want to tell you is that nuclear weapons are in the world in large numbers. We will not wish them away. God will not let us disinvent nuclear weapons. They're here and we must deal with them.

Many people think that the Lord permitted man to invent golf to entertain the rich. I tell you God permitted man to invent golf to teach him something about life. That principle is: You are where you are. In golf, you play the ball where it lies; you can't go back to the tee. And that's the way we are in this world. God will forgive our sins, but He won't give us any "mulligans."

So, we must deal with the issue of nuclear weapons realistically. Arms negotiations are a way of dealing with this issue, but negotiations alone won't reduce the risk of war.

I recall the words of Salvador de Madariaga, the great Spanish philosopher who served for many years on the old League of Nations Disarmament Commission.

He said, "Mankind has the issue of arms and disarmament and war and peace upside down and backwards. Nations don't distrust each other because they are armed, they arm because they distrust each other." That is important for us to remember: We need to work on the distrust and them maybe disarmament will be possible. We won't necessarily make the world safer by negotiations and we won't make it safer by unilateral disarmament. Even as we negotiate with the Soviets, we absolutely must see to our own defenses.

The United States' policy is to try to reduce the risk of nuclear war by negotiating with the Russians to achieve substantial reductions in the number of nuclear weapons. At the same time, we are reinforcing deterrence by modernizing our own nuclear force, and that includes the full 100 MX, the B-1, the Trident and the command and control, not because we want to attack someone but because we want to make it clear to the Soviet Union that they cannot attack us without grave danger to themselves.

But we have to remember that the Russians are using the negotiations to separate us from our Allies in Europe while, at the same time, trying to limit our weapons. If the Soviets see that the Free Nations of the world are going to limit their weapons through their own democratic processes, there is no incentive for them to engage seriously in negotiations to limit their arms.

Our President has a third ingredient. That is what some call "Star Wars" but what I call "the Strategic Defense Initiative," or "SDI." The Strategic Defense Initiative says to the Soviet Union and our Allies that the United States is committed to use our technological know how to see if it is possible to end the dominance of nuclear ballistic missiles. If research bears fruit, we will have a defense-oriented system which threatens no one.

Our initiative has captured the Soviets' attention. Why is that so? Because they know that America is willing to do what must be done to provide for its own defense; and it is that resolve to provide for our own defenses, combined with the steadfast unity among Western nations, which has brought the Soviets back to the negotiating table. I say to you the President's program deserves the full support of all Americans.

Certainly the record of the negotiations of the past have shown us that Soviets try to achieve their own objectives through the negotiations and they will try to separate us from the allies of the world while at the same time they will try to limit our weapons in any way they possibly can while they continue to build their own.

If the Soviets can see that the free nations of the world are willing to limit their own weapons through their own democratic political process there is not much incentive to negotiation.

I will tell you that there is one other ingredient that is needed that is perhaps the best illustrated by another Minnesota story.

Ollie and Lena had been married forty-five years and Lena apparently died, because she was being buried and Ollie was moving with the casket on the way to the graveyard when one of the pallbearers slipped and the casket dropped to the ground and popped open and Lena propped out. She wasn't dead after all.

Well, needless to say that broke up the funeral. Ollie and Lena went back to the farm and lived together for another ten years when Lena, so to speak, died again and they were on the way to the graveyard agin and Ollie was moving behind the casket and he could be heard to say in a low but audible voice, "steady, boys, steady."

I would say to you that is the essential ingredient of providing for our National defense, "steady."

Steadiness is necessary. Steadiness of purpose and steadiness in maintaining our defenses; steadiness in dealing with our Allies; and steadiness in dealing with our adversaries.

Again, I would like to thank you for your support of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. Their business is to help preserve the peach by being strong enough to make it clear that our potential enemies cannot succeed if they attack us.

I say to you that they are better than they have been at any time since I put on a uniform.

Now, you may say, "Well, you are a General. When you go to the field they only show you the good stuff."

Well, I have been in the Army for 46 years—through 17 different pay grades; and if something's wrong, I can smell it. I say to you that you as citizens and I as a fellow citizen should be proud of today's Armed Forces.

It is a little hard for me to say they are good today because I am sure I am like most of you, I though the outfit that I fought with in World War II was probably the best outfit in the world or that the world would ever see.

But as I say, I have to say these guys are better.

As citizens, we can all be proud of them. You should also be proud of one other element of our Armed Forces, that is the families of our military people. I want to read to you from the speech given about three months ago by a military family member. The speaker was Karen Nicholson that you honored here yesterday.

She said in a little speech that she gave at the dedication memorial to her husband at Fort Belvoir that, "To belong to the military is to belong to a very special family. Perhaps because we are so often away from our loved ones a bond develops that you can find nowhere else—Nick was the most patriotic person I have ever known and that is why he made the military his life.

"He felt that each and every day he did something for his country, for his family, and for everyone he knew.

"He devoted his life to understanding other people, especially the Soviets, in the hopes that through friendship and knowledge of each other he could contribute to world peace."

Then she said, "He didn't want to die and we didn't want to lose him; but, I know that he would gladly lay down his life again for America."

That is a wonderful tribute to the men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States and to the military families.

I want to thank you again for your support of the Armed Forces. I say they are good; you can be proud of them, both the Active Force and the Guard and Reserve.

I am sure with your support and the help of God we can continue to preserve the blessings of liberty not just for ourselves but, as our Constitution says, for those Americans who will follow us.

Thank you very much.

PRESENTATION OF VFW HALL OF FAME AWARD TO WILLIS REED

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Comrades, in May of this year we learned of a man, who by the courage of his convictions, made an outstanding contribution to the field of athletics in our great country.

In his own right Willis Reed, now an Assistant Coach of the Atlanta Hawks basketball team, has had few peers as a professional basketball player. No honor escaped him during his nine year career playing center for the New York Knicks.

He was named the National Basketball Association Rookie-of-the-Year in 1965.

And during the 1970–71 season he won triple honors as the Most Valuable Player of the NBA regular season. Most Valuable Player of the NBA All-Star Game and Most Valuable Player during the championship playoffs—all in one season.

His greatest honor came in 1981 when he was selected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

But, as we see it, this outstanding athlete's finest moment may have been on May 1, 1985, when he resigned his position as Head Basketball Coach at Creighton University because he realized that he could not build a competitive college basketball team without violating NCAA rules as some other colleges do.

Willis Reed, a man who is long on integrity and respect for American youth, refused to break those rules.

We in the VFW support Coach Reed's honesty and courage, and we wish to confer upon him the VFW Hall of Fame Award and wish him a successful future with the Atlanta Hawks.

Coach Willis Reed, would you please join me.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron reads citation: "In recognition of his significant contribution to American athletes as both a professional basketball player and a college basketball coach, and in special recognition of his demonstrated high stardards of sportsmanship and personal integrity which serve as an example for America's youth.

"In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and the official seal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, this 19th day of August, 1985."

Signed by Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief and Howard Vander Clute, Adjutant General.

Let me say, Willis, I played college basketball and for many, many years you have been my hero.

REMARKS OF WILLIS REED

WILLIS REED. Thank you very much. It's indeed an honor to be honored by such a group as the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is indeed a pleasure to be here.

I would like to say I have received many awards in my day but I think this is a very unique reward by a special group of people that have done something special for this country and we love you.

Thank you very much.

PRESENTATION OF VFW DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO J.A. "AL" CHEATHAM

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON.** In the 86-year annals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, few men have devoted so much of their lives to the growth and financial stability of our organization as Past Quartermaster General J.A. "Al" Cheatham.

Al retired as Quartermaster General at the end of last March after 40 years of service to the VFW. Actually, he was the first World War II veteran to join the staff in Kansas City. Fresh out of the Army Air Corps, he went to work for Captain Bob Handy, who first as Adjutant and Quartermaster General and later as Quartermaster General guided the VFW from the end of World War I through the Korean War. Under Captain Handy, Al Cheatham had one of the best of teachers and Al learned his lessons well.

After serving as Captain Handy's assistant, Al was elected Quartermaster General in 1962 upon the retirement of Captain Handy. Those immediate post-World War II days saw a tremendous growth in the organization, but a gradual erosion set in.

By 1955, however, the membership began a turnaround and for 30 consecutive years, our organization has experienced a steady increase. This year ended with 20,000 more than two million and in 1983-84 we reached two million for the first time.

Coupled with the membership growth, the sound fiscal management practices followed by Al Cheatham, we have seen the assets of this organization grow from $277,000 in 1941 to more than $100 million now.

Al was born in Alabama and reared in New Orleans, but he came to the Kansas City area to attend college before entering the Army Air Corps.

So it is not surprising that he returned here after the war, especially since his wife, Thelma, is from near Kansas City. It was a lucky day for the VFW when Al Cheatham stopped by and applied for a job with this organization.

Anything further to say about J.A. "Al" Cheatham would be like gilding the lily, for his record of achievement is clear. It is everywhere you look in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Al, it is a great honor to present you with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Distinguished Service Medal and Citation. You have certainly earned it and all of us are grateful for what you have done.

Quartermaster General CHEATHAM. Thank you.

Commander-in-chief CAMERON. At this time I would like to recognize National President Glenneta Vogelsang for a presentation.

Ladies Auxiliary President VOGELSANG. Thank you.

On behalf of the seven hundred and twenty thousand six hundred plus members of the Ladies Auxiliary, I am privileged to present to you a small token of our respect for you and the assistance you have given us over the years. I know that you are as proud of our accomplishments as we are and I hope that you and Thelma will use this for something you really, really will enjoy. We wish you good health.

REMARKS OF J.A. "AL" CHEATHAM

J.A. "AL" CHEATHAM. Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Glenneta Vogelsang, President of the Auxiliary, National Officers, guests and Comrades:

Nothing warms the Quartermaster's heart more than a gift like that. Ladies really know how to get to a fellow. I deeply appreciate it.

I might say to start it has been a pleasure to work with the Ladies Auxiliary. I have been closely associated with them through the leadership years of Erline Mayberry and our good friend Glenn Grossman who you selected as a person to operate the business part of your organization, and I can say this to your ladies and also to the men that the Ladies Auxiliary has done so well in this area that they should be used as a role model for the business side of the—for profit organization these ladies know how to handle their money.

It doesn't seem that long ago when I sat across the desk from Bob Handy as the 27 year old who returned from combat, and the organization at that time only had seven hundred thousand members and rented space in Kansas City and didn't own any property at that time, and in the report of Bob Handy that year in 1956 at the August Convention, he mentioned that the organization had a five hundred percent membership increase from 1941 to 1945 just as I arrived at the organization, and he also mentioned that the organization had trimmed financial resources, but he said it was with a great deal of humility as World War veterans that most of these changes came about because of the World War II veterans.

I read a few days ago from the proceedings and minutes and I want to read just a brief comment that Bob Handy had to make. He said it was obvious that a new era has begun and a new generation of Veterans is prepared to devote its energy and intelligence to the extension and development of this organization into a great and influential body of citizens.

That certainly was a prophesy if I ever read one.

I think the time will come before too long when the World War II veterans can mention that about those younger ones who came along and followed at that time.

It took the national organization a long time until the late 40's or early 50's before we had the political changes in the area of Adjutant General and Commander-in-Chief when World War II ended, but it wasn't until 1962 when they felt kind enough or smart enough or old enough to let me start handling the money.

It wasn't until then they elected a Quartermaster General to replace Bob Handy, Quartermaster General for some 30 or 40 years, one of the greatest men I ever worked with.

Since he was elected Quartermaster General it hasn't always been a bed of roses. We had financial problems; membership up and down, great deficits and three out of four years—before I was elected Quartermaster General in January 1962, three out of those years were deficit years.

When I became Quartermaster General, the very first thing I did was hire a CPA to go on the staff and a person with a degree in business administration. I felt like that was the time that budgeting and accounting should be on a professional basis, and Herb Irwin, the young fellow over here, the Quartermaster General, was the first employee I hired.

I am proud of him and the job he has done throughout the years and I would like to say we stopped the deficit cold in their tracks.

For the following twenty-three years we had a surplus each year totaling in excess, including this year, in excess of 16 million dollars.

I want to tell you that a great deal of this came about not only because of the Quartermaster General's Department, certainly we do not take credit for that, but because of 23 great Commanders-in-Chief that I had the privilege of preparing budgets for, and you are looking at the greatest one here today, and the reason I say he is the greatest one is that he achieved the highest membership we ever had in the organization and surplus this year, unless we spend it all here at the convention, will exceed the total assets that were turned over to me in 1962, including the VFW building in Kansas City, all our property there and property in Washington, with the exclusion of the life membership trust fund which has a couple million dollars in it.

That tells you something about the fiscal responsibility that is being accepted; not only being accepted by all of the Commanders-in-Chief as they enter their term of office, but because each of them come in with the idea of leaving the organization stronger than it's ever been before, not only in the field of membership but in other areas of organization and one of the important areas is the financial.

I want to thank the members of the 23 Budget Committees that I served with, members of the 23 Board of Directors, the National Council of Administration Members, because they worked very closely and asked a lot of questions and we hammered out good budgets and fiscal policies through those years.

Along in 19—early 1980's we had some tragic things happen to the organization that left a great impression on the organization.

You know the things I am talking about, the loss of two of our great leaders.

We wondered at the time just exactly what that shock would do. But Art Fellwock in his wisdom as successor and the two junior officers picked a successor in Howard Vander Clute who stepped into the shoes of a great Adjutant General. I worked with one over 30 years. It is most difficult for a new man to come in and try to build an organization the way he wants it and knowing that something can't be taken lightly and not something that can be done easily.

I want to mention to you that the first year or two Howard and I didn't get our act together. We only made three or four hunderd thousand in profit in addition to the gains.

But I want to tell you that the last three years, including this year, is the highest surplus the organization has enjoyed in its entire history, and each year the surplus has gotten greater I think that tells you something about the way the leadership of the organization works together.

I will tell you when we have peace and harmony and people working together in our Kansas City office, the organization will continue to prosper and work that way.

I want to say to you in the presence of Howard, he is a great, articulate leader; conscientious person and dedicated and loyal and very cooperative.

I want to say, Howard, it's been a pleasure to work with you and operate the National Headquarters and the responsibility falls on the shoulders of the two people, Adjutant General and Quartermaster General, and we each have our own staff and one of the greatest things I am leaving to the organization as my so called legacy is a well trained staff of over a hundred twenty employees in the Quartermaster General's Department.

I am proud of the record of those people. We have had a great shift in the years since World War II. Every man we picked out is capable and dedicated and I believe they have the ability to step into any job there at the headquarters with their field of training and education.

I want to thank Herb for the guidance and counseling and everything else he did throughout the years and for helping us to get a computer business. I couldn't understand a darn thing, but I was smart enough to hire somebody smart enough to run it and he did a beautiful job bringing us around from the pen and ink bookkeeping days to today with a more advanced system which should be considered a showpiece for the organization.

I want to thank a few people and I am not going to be long with a long list of names. I know I have missed most of those I should. But I must thank Post 869 Kansas with my 26 years when I had to run for election, particularly my bodyguard and personal companion, manager, fellow by the name of Hattie Hatfield. If you've seen him once you will remember. He is a fellow of great girth. I always felt like nobody would put a hand on me because he was a bodyguard.

Department of Kansas, I am appreciative for the support they have given to me throughout the years and also to the members of the Western Conference, because without their support certainly I would not have had the success that we have had in the political campaigns and trying to maintain some continuity in this office of the Quartermaster General.

Not least of all but more special than anything, I would like to bring to the platform at this time a lady that shared forty-two years experience with me. Without her I would not have been very successful in my forty years with the VFW because it's not all a bed of roses to work a job like this.

You work during the week and you are expected to run the office and during the weekend—then on weekends, travel. So to Thelma, the responsibility of doing everything to maintaining the house and mowing the lawn—I always did get her good equipment but she did this—and it always fell to her task to raising the two children and now that they have turned out so well, I refer to them as "my youngsters" as most male chauvinists do.

But I want to tell you it's been a real asset to me. Those of you that work this level of the organization know how much it means to have a lady in your corner to help represent the organization, and they are a part of this organization and actually when you put a married individual into this job, you get a two for one bargain, and you're only getting a single one now because you put a bachelor in to replace me but those are his problems.

I want to express my appreciation to Thelma and tell her how much I appreciate it. She has a been a big help.

PRESENTATION OF VFW CITIZENSHIP AWARD TO EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR., DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Citizenship Award goes to Everett Alvarez, a distinguished Naval Officer and government executive. He is best known to the public as the first American aviator shot down over North Vietnam. He was taken prisoner of war on August 5, 1964, and held in North Vietnam for eight and one-half years until the general release of prisoners on February 12, 1973.

Mr. Alvarez served in Program Management at the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C., until his retirement from the Navy in 1980. In April 1981, he accepted an appointment as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps.

President Reagan nominated him to be Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs in July 1982. He was confirmed by the Senate and assumed his current post in August 1982.

As Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Alvarez is the Agency's Chief Operating Officer, responsible for Veterans Administration activities which include 172 medical centers, 227 outpatient clinics, 105 nursing home care units, 58 regional offices and 109 national cemeteries.

Mr. Alvarez is a strong advocate for Veterans' programs but his advocacy is tempered by the understanding that he has an equal responsibility to manage these programs in the most effective way possible.

Mr. Alvarez holds numerous military decorations including the Silver Star, two Legion of Merits with Combat V, two Bronze Stars with Combat V, the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Purple Hearts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my distinct honor to introduce to you the Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Everett Alvarez, Jr., and to present him with the VFW Citizenship Award for 1985.

REMARKS OF EVERETT ALVEREZ, JR.

EVERETT ALVEREZ, Jr. Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies Auxiliary delegates:

I am greatly honored that you have chosen me to receive this Citizenship Award today and I accept it humbly and gratefully. Knowing that if any group has an understanding of what the word citizenship means, it has to be the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The list of previous recipients of this award include names of some of the century's most prominent Americans, some of the finest citizens for any time period and the recognition that you have seen fit to add my name to that list makes me thankful for the exceptional opportunity I have been given to serve my country.

I have to guess that this honor is based a large part on my time spent as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam and in the past few months I have had occasion to do a lot of thinking about that experience and I have to add I am proud of how we conducted ourselves both as individuals and as a group.

The pride I feel is not a self-serving pride or egotistical pride. As I think back I do recognize after some extent I assumed a different identity in prison camp. We all did in some ways. I was no longer just Alvarez, individual; I become Everett Alvarez, American Citizen, a living embodiment of the United States of America and if you were brought up right, and I believe I was, that identity immediately set standards for us.

As representatives of the United States, we had a convention for deciding what to do and how to act.

The qualities that make a good citizen also make a good POW. The good citizen's sense of loyalty to his country gave us stronger common bond.

It created a sense of loyalty to each other and that was very essential for our survival.

A good citizen's respect for newly appointed authority, in prison it gave us an organizational structure based on military rank and permitted us to develop a set of rules by which we live.

A good citizen's recognition that the common good must sometimes replace individual comfort or convention came into play very often.

When the easy way out for you could have been easy but on the other hand it could make a hardship or severe consequences for your fellow prisoner—I don't mean to imply our task was easy because of our heritage, but I do mean to get across a sense of citizenship is something very precious; it is precious to all of us here in this room and precious to all of you in the POW camp. It heps us to survive under very difficult circumstances.

The pride I feel about that experience is essentially pride in our country. I want to get across my belief that this award for citizenship is an honor for me just as it was an honor to serve my country, a Nation that aspires and deserves the love and devotion of our citizens, and I firmly believe no Nation other than ours and no society has more people more tolerant.

Those are facts and there should be no embarrassment associated with proclaiming these facts.

I am sure you share the sentiments that I do of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Your credentials as citizens and fine Americans are unquestionable, I know that; and it makes receiving this award a very special event in my life.

I've often said in my life and I will say it again today; that there is no fellow citizen I would rather serve than our Veterans of America. There are of the finest.

As the Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Affairs for the past three years, it has been my privilege to do just that. The VFW assists me every day in doing my job in more ways than you can count.

I truly enjoyed working this past year with the National Commander Billy Ray and truly respect him and I an glad I have had the opportunity to be here today with my wife, two boys, Mark and Brian, so they can share this with me.

Thank you very much.

Presentation of VFW News Media Award to Sarah McClendon

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen, when our awards committee meets each year to consider nominees for our News Media Award, the competition is keen because our country is blessed with a free press and dedicated men and women who excel in bringing us the news.

In past years we have given this award to such notable individuals as Ted Turner for Cable News Network and Helen Copley for the Copley Press Service. We also honored America's most innovative newspaper, USA Today.

This year we are honored to present the award to a dedicated journalist from this great state of Texas.

Sarah McClendon has been covering the Congress, the White House and the Pentagon as a newspaper, radio and television journalist for over 40 years. During that time she has earned a reputation for her television encounters with five Presidents asking sharp questions on vital topics that the Presidents least wanted to discuss before nationwide audiences.

As an Army Lieutenant during World War II, she served in the Pentagon and in the Office of the Army Surgeon General. Since then she has served on the Defense Advisory Committee for Women in the Service and written extensively on military issues and veterans affairs in leading publications.

Would you please join me in welcoming our 1985 VFW News Media Award winner, Miss Sarah McClendon.

In recognition of over 40 years of service to this nation an an author and newspaper, radio and television journalist covering the White House, Congress and the Pentagon and in special recognition of her tenacity and fierce determination in bringing the truth about America institutions to the attention of a grateful public.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and the official seal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States this 19th day of August, 1985.

Signed by Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief and Howard Vander Clute, Adjutant General.

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. Also with this award, Sarah, is a check for a thousand dollars.

REMARKS OF SARAH McCLENDON

SARAH McCLENDON. Thank you very much. I am going to use this in behalf of the rehabilitation of humans, including Veterans.

I am very honored to receive this award and I receive it on behalf of others in my profession of journalism as we strive to be a bridge of understanding and information between the civilian population and the military and our government.

I think many of my colleagues have done well and many were heroes in war time. They were included in the 1500 war correspondents recently acclaimed by the National Press Club in Washington at its memorial celebration of V-J Day.

But I think we can do a better job in the future. Personally, I think we deal too much with the technicalities of war and weapons and not sufficiently with personnel.

As a Brigadier General, Mary A. Marsh, Personnel Advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the generals and admirals—"You cannot have readiness of the troops if they have family worries at home."

The Veterans Administration in Washington has a slogan and car sticker—which reads—"America is No. 1 due to her Veterans." That can be even more true in the future.

Both political parties in this country are weak on policies that affect the basic requirements and long time needs of this country; especially is the Democratic party weak, while the Republic party seems mostly intersted in raising money.

As I look at it, at the country, the Veterans who have a sense of great dedication and loyalty to maintaining the United States ought to consolidate their commitment to citizenship and move in with all of their famous drive and show as much interest in peaceful, domestic strategies as well as weapons defense.

It is obvious to me that the general welfare of our citizens must be preserved and protected or we will not have a country. I mean thought should be given to women and children in poverty, with their ranks growing, to the poor, the uneployed and the disabled.

We have to take care of our own people before we can beat the Japanese at the great race on technology.

Many of you may not know that, as you continue in Texas today, there is a great fight between the United States and the Japanese for the world's greatest computer. We have got to win that fight.

We veterans ought to coordinate our efforts on the home front and acquire clout with Congress on civilian programs as well as on national defense. as that is where our national security lies, with the people first.

We must keep the country alive before we can defend it. How can children growing up in poverty, hungry every night, with bodies weakened by lack of food—how can they learn the new technology to compete with the rest of the world and how can they acquire the mental capacity to fire the new sophisticated weapons which the Pentagon provides?

There are many civilian programs we should and must take part in. I want to impress upon you right now; I have seen it in Washington, I have been there a long time and watched this; one man or one woman can change the whole government.

Please, as citizens, get in there and help us make plans for a better government. Even if you are at home, or in a wheelchair, you can study and devise plans to improve government. You can think, study, read, plan; you can make suggestions and we need those suggestions very much in our country today.

So I hope that you will realize that we have got to have some help in Washington. I hope to inspire you to keep strict oversight of the performance of your public officials and government in general.

This is what the founding fathers intended when they wrote the Constitution.

Some things in government are good; some not; many important things are thrust to one side and are not getting the top priority treatment they should, such as trade, deficit, immigration, agriculture, home mortgages, health costs, drug control.

Remember one man or one woman can change our government. Even at home, you can think and plan and help us to get better government.

I want to congratulate this organization on having men and women members and on your wonderful back-up, your Womens Auxiliary. Just think, you have been here for years and you are still here. You are wonderful.

I went to the parties last night and I figured there would be about fifty people in this morning and bless your heart you are on time at 9:00 o'clock and working all together. That is really the greatest Veterans organization I have ever seen.

As a veteran myself and one who has kept up with the activities of military women since World War II, I feel that all of those brave women are joining me today in the glory of this award. I'd like here to tell you about some of the accomplishments of the women in the military. They do not often have their story told.

I want to tell you about a phase of the military you ought to know something about; we are part of a team. You may not have known as much as I have over the years. I have heard about military women. We have about ten percent of the force.

We want to part of the team and in our part of the team we want an opportunity to serve and be dedicated, and thank God we have that opportunity to keep up. We expect to keep it.

You may not have heard, we have military women today serving in twenty-seven countries around the world. There are seven hundred thirty-eight of them by actual count in Central America, Honduras, today, and women took over a great deal of the duties in Granada. And women performed well and investigated the Cuban soldiers and guarded the prisoners and brought all in peace.

The special training that they had at Fort Bragg and at international conventions and they had a great deal to do with keeping the order that preserved the good name in the United States there.

You may not know it but we have had women in all of our major wars as well as the conquest of the frontier. Captain Molly Corbin is buried at West Point at which place she last served under orders of George Washington.

She had her arm shot off in the war and she took her husband's place when he was hit and she took his gun in the Revolutionary War.

George Washington reported her as one of those at the river front at West Point.

We have had Doctor Mary Walker, surgeon on the battlefield, surgeon in the Civil War, given the Congressional Medal of Honor and she and her family had to fight to keep it. We had to—they tried to get it away from her.

A contingent of black women nurses from New Orleans were recruited to nurse the wounded black soldiers in the Spanish American War and those women did a beautiful job.

In World War I, an Army nurse, Helen McClelland, I hope we are of the same clan, received the First Distinguished Service Cross given to a woman. She saved the life of a British nurse by throwing her body over the other woman when the hospital where they worked was bombed.

I think that we have a great chance here to show that women can be a great value in the service.

In World War II, over two hundred military nurses lost their lives, sixteen as a result of enemy fire. They had been billeted within sounds of enemy guns.

In early days of World War II, eighty-three military women were taken prisoner by the Japanese in the Pacific Islands. They participated in the Bataan death march.

During captivity, they saved bits of their own food to feed the hungry men prisoners whom they nursed at the time. Many of the men died of starvation.

Strangely enough, the women survived disease and hunger, but they, too were about to go under when they heard the welcome news of American GI's come to rescue them.

The beautiful film made in 1983 by the Department of Defense, called, "They All Came Home," tells the story of these brave men and women in the Philippines and of their commanders.

A beautiful film and I hope all of you get to see it.

The story of these women is told for the first time publicly. I have seen the film and I wish every school child in the land could see this. It would impress on their minds and hearts the truths of patriotism for life. The film ends with a woman nurse saying "Freedom must be fought for, daily."

General Douglas MacArthur was among commanding generals who praised the soldiering of women from Manila to Australia and mentioned in particular their eagerness to serve and their stamina in hardship.

Colonel Mary Hallaren who led the first detachment of women in the Army into North Africa, under General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and later into England, said, "None of them ever asked for a transfer and they withstood with courage the hardships and dangers during the Buzz Bombs and the V-I and V-II shelling in London."

Women were on the Anzio beachhead five days after the first landing and on Normandy beachhead on D Day plus Four.

At Anzio, a woman nurse was killed by enemy fire a few minutes after she gave the order which saved many patients' lives. She directed that the men be taken out of the shaky beds and put on the floor to stop the opening of their wounds.

She was 2nd Lieutenant Ellen G. Ainsworth of Wisconsin, and a conference room in the Pentagon is today named in her honor.

A detachment of WACS was on duty close up front in the Belgium-German area at the end of World War II when the Battle of the Bulge was fought. They were performing communications duties under General Omar Bradley. Even General George Patton before it was over asked for a WAC secretary.

Today, the women in the military serve 27 countries placed from Turkey all over the place.

As Assistant Secretary of Defense Larry Korb told a National Security forum for women, "They may not be permitted in combat areas or in combat ships or aircraft but their assignments could take them to places where they would be vulnerable to becoming casualties."

For example, he said, an enemy seeing an Air Force refueling craft in the air and two other combat aircraft would know that if they shot down the refueling craft they would soon put the other aircraft in a weak position.

All of the jobs have to do with combat except the women aren't supposed to work in combat.

I asked a man one time what were women doing in the maneuvers and he said, "Nothing—oh, they are there."

"What do they do?"

"Well, maintenance."

"What do they maintain?"

He said, "Aircraft."

Women flew planes for the Air Force and Navy.

There are military women who refuel these planes in mid-air today. Some fly the AWACS planes, the women in the Air Force fill all of the jobs but combat, the women were part of the crew of AWACS sent to Saudi Arabia. They are there despite the fact the Saudi Airmen, when they get on that plane to train, do not speak to the women navigators.

Women fly coastal patrol planes for both the Air Force and the Navy, to make sure no enemy submarine approaches too close to our shores.

Navy women take the same jobs as the men but not those in combat. There are only 15 jobs where women in the Navy are not permitted. They cannot fly combat planes, although I have heard Navy Admirals say they wished that the women could do so.

Navy women work on tugs in harbors but not on combat ships. But some of them perform the unconventional job of Chaplain.

You don't know it but we have someone in the air looking to see that the Coast Guard is secured from the enemy.

They perform other jobs. One of the best gifts women have given to the Navy is the service of the 78 year old Commodore, Grace Hopper, who developed the computer system used throughout the Navy. She is still on duty.

In the U.S. Coast Guard, it is different. There, women command sizeable coastal vessels with men working under them.

The U.S. Marine Corps has its second woman Brigadier General now, Gail Reals. She is Director of Manpower, Plans and Policies at

Marine Corps Headquarters. Marines are beginning to give women training in combat arms under the theory that women at any place may need to defend themselves now.

The Marine Corps is proud of the high educational quality of its women recruits. They are shown by surveys to be of the highest quality intellect in the corps and comprise a growing percentage of the Marines in the middle intelligence brackets.

They work on maintenance of aircraft, as Air Traffic Controllers, Motor Transportation, Legal work.

Army women, beside the Nurse Corps, served in nearly 300 positions in World War II with 83,000 in Europe and 5,500 in the Southwest Pacific. Along with the men, they suffered extreme hardships in living conditions and poor food.

There were over 7,000 women in the Vietnamese War, subject to dangers of Agent Orange, too.

Military women in Europe today are best known for their maintenance of heavy equipment used by the men in combat, including the M-1 Tank, the Bradley Personnel Carrier, the non-combat helicopters which they both pilot and navigate.

In a contest to see who among the non-commissioned officers could best maintain the new big Bradley, a woman won.

One women I met in Germany told me she could fix any electronic system the Army had in its entire inventory.

Army women in intelligence monitoring are sometimes placed ahead of the advancing U.S. Guns.

Women in Germany do most of the training of troops and administration of defensive chemical weapons.

An Army woman colonel is the customs officer for all of the United States in European countries. Another is the postmaster for U.S. Troops in Europe.

When the U.S invaded Grenada, women were given important jobs in securing the peace. They carried guns, guarded embassies, interrogated Cuban prisoners of War, eliciting more than usual information. They set up civilian government again and applied international rules of the Geneva Convention as they had learned to do from their special school in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Today, the U.S. has 738 women troops in Honduras, in Panama and other countries in Central Ameica. They work on ships in the harbor and on land.

Women go on maneuvers to the Middle East with the other troops every year. Usually in Egypt they maintain the aircraft which is an important part of the maneuvers.

Women also served in Sinai on the U.S. portion of the peace guarding mission.

But it has not all been peaceful and agreeable for these women. They have had their problems, principally the fact they are often the subject of another study by the military brass.

Some of the men would like to see them all be put out of the Army. But the women are dedicated and many want to stay in service.

From a young Army girl in Germany, I received a letter in which she said: "I've been in this man's Army for 10 years. I would leave except for the young teenaged girl who said I was her role model and the son-of-a-bitch sergeant who thinks I can't hack it."

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. I am glad that we passed that resolution in 1978.

INTRODUCTION OF KRISTIN ANN LINDHOLM, 1985 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER

(By Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman Staab)

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. At this time I will call on the National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman Staab.

National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief **STAAB**. I want to thank Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron for giving me the honor. This year the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary have completed their 38th year of sponsorship fo the Voice of Democracy scholarship program.

Over 300,000 students from over 8,000 high schools across the country participated; with Posts, Auxiliaries, Districts and Departments expending $630,000 in scholarships, bonds and awards.

This year's First Place Winner is sponsored by VFW Post 302 and its Ladies Auxiliary, the Fifth District and the great "Show Me" State of Missouri.

This energetic eighteen-year old has shown us an awful lot since capturing her title at our Washington Conference in March.

She graduated in June from Center Senior High School in Kansas City.

During her senior year, she was President of the National Honor Society, President of the School Chapter of the National Forensic League, President of the Musical Cast and President of the School Speech Team.

She is no stranger to speech competition, having won over seventy awards, including second place in Missouri in Team Debate, second in the PTA Theme Contest for high school literature and sixteenth in the Nation in Team Debate.

In between speaking engagements, she found time to represent Missouri in America's Modern Miss Pageant, received the Girl Scouts Gold Award, a Young Patriot of the Year Award and the Golden Eagle Award, for the promise of greatness, from the American Academy of Achievement

She has been honored by Proclamations from the Mayor and City Council of Kansas City and the Missouri House of Representatives, and she was selected this year as a Presidential Scholar, an honor that is bestowed upon only 141 students across the Nation.

She has been accepted at the University of Illinois where she will be reporting in two days to begin her studies in communications.

Comrades and Sisters, Ladies and Gentleman, to present her award winning script on "Her Pledge to America our 1985 National Winner of the Voice of Democracy and recipient of the $14,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship, Kristin Ann Lindholm.

REMARKS OF MISS KRISTIN LINDHOLM

KRISTIN LINDHOLM. I really appreciate the patience of all those who stayed. Let me tell you in the Voice of Democracy Program there is a time limit and it's only 3 to 5 minutes so I will not be too long I promise.

I want to say this morning how pleased I am to be able to attend the 86th National Convention of VFW and the 72nd National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary. Someone at lunch yesterday turned to me and said, "Well, you are about to be a has-been." I guess when I thought about it I don't think I will ever feel like a has-been.

I want to tell you this award is probably the best thing that every happened to me. Sincerely I mean it. VFW and Ladies Auxiliary will have a special place in my heart. I appreciate this program so much. I care very much about you and your organization. It's absolutely wonderful.

I want to take this moment to say a couple thanks.

I want to thank a lot of people on the level that make this whole program possible.

At the Post level, thanks to everybody who worked at the Post level; especially to my Post 302.

The winners go on to the District. Thank you everybody that worked at the District and especially District 5.

I appreciate your support.

Finally to each of the states and let me tell you in Washington I met each of the winners of the states, and there is not one who is not a fantastic person and that was an incredible year and each state should be proud of the winner. I am of course, very proud to represent my state, Missouri. I think it is a wonderful state.

Of course now I am especially pleased to represent the Nation and finally thanks to the whole organization for supporting a wonderful program and thanks to God for a wonderful country and wonderful organization as the VFW and then I love you all and thank you so much.

Now I would like to present my speech "My Pledge to America."

"One of my most vivid memories of kindergarten is the day when I finally recited the Pledge of Allegiance, by memory, without any mistakes.

"I was very proud of myself, but my pride stemmed more from my memorization skills than from my understanding of the significance of making a pledge to my country.

"I did not realize that a pledge is not a recitation; it is a solemn promise made by a dedicated person who translates the words into his actions.

"By the time I was mature enough to understand this, I had moved into upper grades, and the school day no longer began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Without that daily requirement, I stopped giving a pledge to my country. For too long, I have taken for granted the priceless opportunities and freedoms that my country has given me, and I have given little in return. Therefore, I need to make a new, unique pledge—my pledge to America.

"The members of many organizations pledge themselves to uphold traditions, to work during the present and for the future, and to make a strong commitment to the organizations' welfare.

"I too decided to make that three-part pledge to America, beginning by pledging to uphold my country's traditions.

"My rich American heritage began over 200 years ago when the colonists dreamed about shaping America into a country where the power to govern came from the people.

"Adlai Stevenson, once the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, wrote, 'America . . . Is the first community in which men set out to institutionalize freedom, responsible government, and human equality.'

"Through the efforts of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and many others, America became the democratic world leader that she is today.

"I gladly pledge myself to uphold the ideals and history of America.

"One part of a pledge is upholding the past, but pledges are useless unless they demand present action and future commitments. I pledge to serve my country now and to prepare myself for the future. Although, as a student, I do not vote or pay taxes, I can still support my country through my present actions. I can exercise my constitutional rights by keeping informed about important issues and voicing my opinions by letter or petition to my government representatives. In addition, I can provide important volunteer service for my community.

"Through service clubs, I have worked for the Salvation Army, Special Olympics, and a school for autistic children. By serving the people of America, I am serving America herself.

"Working for my country now is extremely important; but, as nationally acclaimed inventor Charles Kettering once said, 'We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.'

"For my generation, preparing for the future is critical, because soon America's future will rest in our hands. We must educate ourselves about our government and our future responsibilities as tax-paying, voting citizens. As an individual, I also must realize my potential so I can make a significant contribution to my country's welfare.

"Finally, I pledge myself to make a strong commitment to America. If I do not take my plege seriously, then it is worthless. Words are easy to write and even easier to say, but acting upon those words is much harder.

"I cannot pledge myself to America and then put off my service and education until later or completely forget about them. If I do, then I am guilty of apathy, perhaps the greatest threat to democratic America.

"Instead of indifference, I want to give my country action. Therefore, I pledge myself to uphold America's traditions, to work during the present and for the future, and to commit myself to fulfilling this solemn promise.

"My pledge can make a difference in my goals and actions and possibly the goals and actions of others as well.

"After all, in the words of Henry Emerson Fosdick, 'Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordianry people.'

"I intend to unlock some of my extraordinary potential by giving and living my pledge to America."

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF MYRNE BRECKENRIDGE

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Next it is now my distinct privilege and very special pleasure to present to you a truly remarkable songwriter and musician.

Last November, during the Founders Day Banquet at Post Number One in Denver, it was my pleasure to hear our guest for the first time, as she sang her own composition which truly provides a welcome home for Vietnam veterans. There were not many dry eyes in the hall following her music.

This artist's early life was divided between farm and mountain life. But she was always surrounded by music. Throughout her youth, the members of her family would gather together to make and listen to music. This was an ongoing gift of joy and love to one another. And now that her two sons are grown, she has begun to pursue the dream of sharing this gift with the world.

This singer-songwriter now resides with her husband, David, a successful artist in his own right, about 45 miles outside of Denver in Elizabeth, Colorado. There she is a member of the Auxiliary of VFW Post 10649 to which she donates proceeds from her recordings.

It is now my honor to present to you this exceptional artist, loving wife and mother, a proud and true American, Myrne Breckenridge.

REMARKS OF MYRNE BRECKENRIDGE

MYRNE BRECKENRIDGE. I would like to say thank you. I am truly honored to be here and I thank you, Commander-in-Chief, for the invitation.

It is my goal to just keep working on that song so I get it out to all of them that need to hear a welcome home. I would like to share it with you now.

"Welcome home soldier. For the men who fought for us in Vietnam; there was no big crowd awaiting at the station. No sound of marching bands could be heard.

"No flags of our country saying soldier, welcome home, from the war you fought for us in Vietnam.

"We finally have been told the whole truth now, of how it really was in Vietnam.

"And how much of our country turned against them, for fighting our war in Vietnam.

"There was no big crowd awaiting them at the station, no sound of marching bands could be heard.

"No flag of our country saying, soldier, welcome home, from the war you fought for us in Vietnam.

"The eyes of the soldiers tell their story. They like to leave all their pain behind. And please don't ever call us the losers; we are survivors of the war in Vietnam.

"There was no big crowd awaiting at the station. No sound of marching bands could be heard. No flags of our country saying, soldier, welcome home, from the war you fought for us in Vietnam.

"It's time our country faced all the truth now, of what our soldiers gave in Vietnam. They said, we will stay and fight for our country; that is exactly what they did in Vietnam.

"Now, soldier, we'd like to meet you at the station and we would like to strike up the bands. Remember soldier we are out here still caring and we are reaching out to you with a helping hand.

"Yes, soldier, we would like to meet you at the station. And we would like to strike up the bands.

"Remember, soldier, we are out here still caring and we are reaching out to you with a helping hand.

"For the war you fought for in Vietnam."

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON.** Thank you very much. That was beautiful.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON.** We will call on the National Chaplain for the closing prayer of this session. We will meet again tomorrow, of course.

[The closing prayer from the Ritual was given by National Chaplain Reverend Christiansen and following a salute to the colors, the Joint Opening Session adjourned at 2:00 p.m.]

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS BANQUET

Monday Evening, August 19, 1985

PRESENTATION OF VFW DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD, GOLD MEDAL AND CITATION, TO U.S. SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON.** Tonight it is my great privilege and personal honor to present the highest award our organization can confer upon a fellow citizen. Tonight we present the VFW Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award to the respected Senior Senator from Indiana, Richard G. Lugar.

Senator Lugar has distinguished himself in a number of ways. After graduating from Denison University in Ohio, he was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England. In 1957, he volunteered for the United States Navy and became a member of the personal staff of Admiral Arleigh Burke, the Chief of Naval Operations.

In 1967, he was elected Mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana and then, in 1976, was elected to the United States Senate.

Since then, Senator Lugar has played an important role in shaping legislation concerning housing, banking, agriculture and foreign relations.

In December, 1984, Senator Lugar was selected for the all-important post he now holds as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. In this position he has devoted himself to rebuilding the Senate's non-partisan position on foreign policy. Under this leadership, the Foreign Relations Committee recently finished a complete review of the United States Foreign policy that has laid the foundation for a new Congressional consensus on American foreign policy.

Because of his highly respected leadership, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has, for the first time in four years, successfully passed a Foreign Assistance Bill. Through his dedication to the ideals of this country, a new spirit of unity is forging a strong foreign policy, firmly opposed to the advancement of Communism and strengthening the alliances which link the free world.

It is now my honor to present the VFW Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award to the outstanding Senator from Indiana, the Honorable Richard G. Lugar.

In grateful recognition of his manifest contributions to American security, unity and world peace. His wisdom, resolution and integrity steer America toward an era of international concord that assures freedom for all mankind.

[Accepting the award, Senator Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, attributed gains made by democratic forces in various parts of the world to bipartisanship in implementing President Reagan's foreign policy.]

PRESENTATION OF VFW AMERICANISM AWARD, GOLD MEDAL AND CITATION TO LEE GREENWOOD

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Comrades, ladies and gentlemen: over the years, the VFW Americanism Award has been presented to men such as Senator Hubert Humphrey, J. Edgar Hoover, John Wayne, the servicemen who were killed during the Iran Rescue Mission, Red Skelton, and Marine Corporal Jeffrey Nashton for their outstanding contributions to the principles of Americanism.

This year's recipient is a man who has become a giant in our entertainment industry. In one of his songs he dared to tell us all to stand up and be proud to be free Americans. He did it in a song called "God Bless The USA."

We have all heard his song. And if you are like me, it brings tears to your eyes and pride to your heart, because it arouses our love of country and sense of patriotism. You are going to find out that Lee Greenwood has done more than just write a patriotic anthem though. His patriotism has moved America; and, it has been a move in the right direction.

Before making the presentation of this award, let me tell you that Lee Greenwood has come a long way from the farmlands of California through Las Vegas and on to Nashville, Tennessee where his name now sits at the top of the National Music Charts—but, he continues his volunteer work and community service to the people of Nashville.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct pleasure to have this opportunity of presenting our VFW Americanism Award to Mr. Lee Greenwood.

> In special recognition of his devotion to Americanism and his contribution to the rebirth of patriotism and the love of freedom throughout the United States through his renowned song "God Bless the USA" and in grateful appreciation for his total dedication and commitment to the highest ideals of the United States of America."

[Following his acceptance of the award, composer-singer Lee Greenwood sang his renowned song "God Bless the USA"].

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION, TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 21, 1985

(Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron Presiding)

[The first business session of the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was called to order in the Dallas Convention Center at 9:00 a.m. by Commander-in-Chief Cameron.

[Sergeant-at-Arms George Sarver led the Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance and National Chaplain Reverend Christiansen gave the opening prayer from the Ritual.]

Report of Committee on Credentials

(By Chairman Richard Trombla)

Chairman **Trombla**. Commander-in-Chief, Comrades, the Board of Credentials Committee met last night. Voting delegates strength twelve thousand five hundred and seventy-two.

Department Commanders, 48; Past Commanders-in-Chief, 25; National Officers, 28.

For a total of twelve thousand six hundred seventy-three. Comrade Commander this completes the temporary report.

Report Of Committee On Convention Rules

(By Chairman Lou Feldmann, Past Comander-in-Chief)

Chairman **Feldmann**. To the Eighty-Sixth National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Dallas, Texas: Your Committee on Converntion Rules met Sunday afternoon, August 18, 1985, and agreed on the following recommendations which are respectfully submitted to you for your consideration:

86th National Convention Rules:

1. That, with the exceptions noted below, Demeter's Manual be recognized as parliamentary authority for this Convention.

2. That, when a delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention, he shall rise, address the Chair as "Comrade Commander-in-Chief," and after being recognized, hall state his name, Post Number, and Department, before proceeding.

3. Debate shall be limited to ten minutes for each speaker.

4. A delegate shall be premitted to speak but twice on any one subject, or any pending Resolution, except by consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present; provided that Chairmen of Convention Committees may speak as frequently as necessary in connection with reports of their Committees; and in the event of controversy, the presiding officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the maker of the motion or a member of the particular group presenting the Resolution an opportunity for final rebuttal.

5. All resolutions offered by individual delegates must bear the endorsement of the Department Commander Adjutant, and must be submitted to the office of the Adjutant General for numbering and referral to committees.

6. All resolutions offered on the floor at the convention, or otherwise, shall be in writing and shall automatically and without reading be referred to the Adjutant General for assignment to the proper committee.

7. Committee chairmen, in reporting on resolutions referred to their committee, shall first read those resolutions on which favorable action is recommended. Specific resolutions shall be set aside for individual action at the request of any delegate; the others being voted upon collectively. After action has been taken on all such resolutions, the chairman shall read the number and title of those resolutions which the committee has disapproved. A resolution disapproved by the committee shall be automatically rejected unless a motion is made and seconded that it be approved, in which case it shall be brought up for debate and convention action.

8. This convention will not consider any resolution dealing with race, creed or religion, or endorse anyone for public office.

9. This convention will not consider any resolution endorsing legislation sponsored by any other veterans organizations, or requesting us to join with any other organization in sponsoring legislation not expressly proposed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

10. No person not a duly accredited delegate or member of the National Convention shall participate in debate, directly or indirectly, in a viva voce vote on any subject before the Convention.

11. Unit rule of voting shall not be allowed in this Convention.

12. On roll calls, the Chairman or Acting Chairman of each delegation shall poll his delegation on the floor and shall announce the vote of his delegation.

13. Delegations may arrive at a vote in any manner they see fit, but shall announce it in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote.

14. When the report of the Chairman of the delegation is not acceptable to all members of the delegation and a poll of the Department delegates is demanded by ten delegates of said Department, the Adjutant General shall poll the delegates without discussion of question.

15. Voting shall be by acclamation, except when a roll call be demanded by ten delegates representing Posts in ten separate Departments.

16. Nominating speeches for the National Officers shall be limited to five minutes each. Not more than two seconding speeches shall be made for any candidate and such speeches shall not exceed two minutes each. Nomination and election of National Officers will be held according to the National Constitution and By-Laws, and Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Section 609.

17. Delegates and persons recognized by the Chair shall be entitled to a respectful hearing, and the Chair shall have the authority to clear the gallery or the floor or have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort them from the floor any person or persons who may create any disturbances which interfere with the orderly procedure of the Convention.

18. Consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present is necessary for suspension of the rules of this Convention.

Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I move the adoption of these convention rules.

[The motion was seconded by Past Commander-in-Chief Leslie Fry and carried.]

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron introduced Prosper J.G.A. Ego, Chairman of the Legion of Ex-Servicemen of the Netherlands.]

REMARKS OF CHAIRMAN EGO

Chairman EGO. It is a great honor to extend to you on behalf of the Legion of Ex-Servicemen of the Netherlands the cordial greetings and feelings of solidarity and friendship. It is also a personal pleasure for me.

Since we signed a brotherhood agreement in March 1984, ties between VFW and the OSL have become closer and several exchanges took place. We were pleased to receive visits from Past Commander Cliff Olson, Commander-in-Chief Cameron and his family, as well as my dear friend Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute and your outstanding Director for National Security, Kenneth Steadman.

We felt particularly honored by these visits because it also gave us the opportunity to strengthen the ties of friendship and make clear to our visitors that we do our utmost to further the relations between the Netherlands and the U.S.A. as well as acting as strong advocates of a consistent NATO membership.

We lost our freedom in May 1940 because we believed in neutrality and in the promises of our neighbor. We had to pay the piper for this.

During five years we were oppressed by the Nazis and it was thanks to the commitment of the Allied Forces, the major share of which you contributed, that we became free again.

We are and will remain eternally thankful to you all for the sacrifices made by you and your great nation. Without you we would have been forced to share the ghastly fate of the people of Eastern Europe.

They were not so fortunate as to be liberated by the armed forces of a democratic country. On the contrary, they have, since then, never more seen the light of freedom.

Together with you we committed ourselves in 1949 to NATO in order to present a unified front against a totalitarian power, that since its creation has been the executor of Lenin's last will and instruction to bring the world under communist influence.

NATO is not capable, without the U.S.A., to act correctly and adequately in case of a conflict.

We are deeply in your debt for the contribution you and your people have made for more than 40 years to the maintenance of our freedom.

But you have done much more. You stood up for the freedom of the people of Indo-China. Unfortunately the public opinion was manipulated against the American support of freedom loving people, with as a result that all efforts were in vain in a sense that what was militarily feasible was lost politically.

Everywhere where communist power manifested itself the U.S.A. has been and is ready to, if not stop, at least prohibit the free advance of communism. The free world hardly realizes how much it is indebted to you all.

Unfortunately forces are at work that try to poison the sentiment against your country, to make you suspect, and that try to break the ties that bind us. This is a part of the unscrupulous campaign to make the free world defenseless by anti-Americanism, against a totalitarian power that will not hesitate one moment to use this opportunity to hoist the red flag with the hammer and the sickle on our town halls.

But although one sometimes is given the impression that many in Europe have communist tendencies, millions know better, thank God. They will not tolerate that the ties with you be broken for all the gold in the world.

I would therefore like to testify to our gratitude and assure you of our unshakable loyalty to our common cause. We are proud to be united with you in brotherhood.

May the Veterans of Foreign Wars have a great future.

Thank you.

PRESENTATION OF VFW DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL AND CITATION TO PAST COMMANDER-IN CHIEF CLIFFORD G. OLSON, 1983–84

Commander-in Chief CAMERON. Last year, 1983–84, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reached an outstanding milestone in its then 85-year history. We recorded a membership of slightly more than two million members and the 29th straight year of membership gain. This had been our goal for many, many years.

The man I am about to present was our Commander-in-Chief during the 1983–84 year, Cliff Olson.

Past Commander-in-Chief Cliff Olson brought to the highest office in the Veterans of Foreign Wars an outstanding record—an All-State Post Commander, an All-American District Commander and an All-American Department Commander.

He is a veteran of the Korean War who successfully overcame a serious illness to go on to become our Commander-in-Chief.

Under his dynamic leadership, we truly moved to greater heights.

Cliff, it really is an honor to present you with the VFW Ditinguished Service Metal and Citation.

Presented to Clifford G. Olson in grateful appreciation and special recognition of his total dedication and commitment to the highest ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and his continuing efforts in support of its programs and purposes. His achievements in leading the Veterans of Foreign Wars over the two million milestone during the 1984 membership year brought to the Veterans of Foreign Wars To Greater Heights.

Signed Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief, and Howard Vander Clute, Adjutant General.

Let me say, Cliff, I want to thank you personally for all your guidance and I appreciate it. My two years, as I served under you, you were a tremendous Commander-in-Chief and I am proud to have the opportunity to present this to you this morning.

REMARKS OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OLSON

Past Commander-in-Chief OLSON. Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Delegates here assembled: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to come before you today and receive this award.

Billy mentioned the fact that we have become great friends, and let me tell you, although I wear this award for services rendered, no one would achieve the heights nor accomplishments that I have achieved unless you have junior officers such as Billy Ray Cameron and John Staum. Those two Comrades were the ones that perhaps pushed me more when you get a little tired, and any Commander-in-Chief would understand what I am saying, and you call on your junior officers to give you a little extra push, that is what happened.

When I wear this I wear it for a whole team, Billy Ray, John Staum, and Cooper, Howard Vander Clute, all of Kansas City, and most of all I wear it for everyone here, the entire all two million members of our great organization. That is why you wear it.

No one man wears a medal only for himself and his achievemens. It's by each and every one of you.

Billy, Commander-in-Chief, I thank you and I continue to proudly serve this organization in ay way that I can, any way I am called upon.

Every day I'll look and think this is the accomplishments of all of the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who attained that two million mark and hopefully I shall be able to remain a member of the team as we continue to those greater heights and whatever slogan comes along by my Commander, I look forward to the day, really soon, when we hit that three million and another day probably even sooner when the lives of all will be affected by this organization.

PRESENTATION OF VFW CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO ADOLPH COORS CO.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Today I am very pleased to be able to recognize an American business enterprise that has played a gigantic role in providing service and assistance to American Veterans. I am talking about the Adolph Coors Company of Golden, Colorado.

It has become very apparent to the VFW that from employment opportunities to overall corporate policy, Coors cares about veterans.

In 1984 veterans represented almost twelve percent of all Coors new employees and today comprise one-third of Coors total work force.

Coors not only employs a significant number of veterans, but also implements policies which encourage and support continuing military activity.

Coors provides benefits such as leave of absence and pay continuance while at annual military duty.

In addition to their employment policies, the Coors family has recently established the Coors Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund which will provide over five hundred thousand dollars in college scholarships to deserving sons and daughters of American Veterans each year. That is a commitment and service to veterans that is hard to beat.

We are honored to have with us today Mr. Peter Coors, the President of Coors Sales, Marketing and Administrative Divisions, to receive the VFW Certification of Appreciation.

Pete, would you please come forward.

Now, I know personally his total commitment to Veterans. I have had the opportunity to visit the corporation and I have to say it is one of the most outstanding in America today. Thank you very much. It is a great pleasure to give you this VFW Certificate of Appreciation.

"PRESENTED TO ADOLPH COORS CO.

"In grateful appreciation and special recognition of its outstanding record of providing preferential opportunities for the employment and advancement of veterans and their dependents as evidenced by its proven policies and achievement in hiring and promoting the employment of veterans and for its recognition of our Nation's servicemen through its scholarship program for children of those killed in the line of duty, missing in action or those taken prisoners of war."

Signed by Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief, and Adjutant General, Howard Vander Clute.

REMARKS OF PETER COORS

PETER COORS. National Commander Cameron, Delegates, members of the Ladies Auxiliary, Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen: It is a tremendous privilege for which I am very grateful to be able to be here in front of this distinguished dedicated body.

On behalf of the Adoph Coors Company and our ten thousand employees I am deeply honored to receive this award for the 1985 Coors Veterans Memorial Scholarship funds. I can assure you that we will take it back to Golden and display it in a very special place in the office building.

This is always special because this is the second time this year that this organization, Veterans of Foreign Wars, has honored our company. In May of this year the VFW presented Coors with the large employer of the year award for hiring Veterans.

It is a record we are very proud of and as already has been mentioned about a third of our employees are Veterans.

At this time I would like to present your National Commander, Billy Ray Cameron, with a framed set of Coors Combat Art series, all six of them are here but we just brought one as a symbol, and a very special privilege for the Adolph Coors Company to present you, Billy Ray, with a signed numbered edition of the Combat Series painted by George Skypeck. This is number 22 of five hundred and those will be packed up and shipped to your Home.

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON.** Thank you.

PETER COORS. I have one other momento which I would like to present to you, Billy Ray. I am sure it's something you can relate to very easy and this is the Coors Golden Dog Tag Award.

Coors salutes those who remember America.

In closing let me say that you have honored us this morning and that indeed is a great honor but I don't think it's going the right direction. It is us who should be thanking you for your dedication and commitment.

We salute you because you are the people who have never taken America for granted, stood up for freedom and have defended it. We are very grateful and we thank you very, very much.

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON.** Thank you very much.

Introduction of U.S. Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Comrades, it is my pleasure and privilege to present to you a most distinguished member of the United States House of Representatives.

He is a Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 79, Meridian, Mississippi, and is the recipient of our most prestigious VFW Congressional Award.

He is a key member of the Committee on Armed Services, but most important to us, he is Chairman of the Committee on Veteran's Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Representative G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery has given a lifetime of service to our country in uniform, to his state, in its Senate, and to our Nation in Washington, D.C.

He is a veteran of World War II and Korea. He has been decorated with the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star for Valor, among many other awards.

He did not stop with active duty service, but continued to serve in the National Guard and the Reserves, rising to the rank of Brigadier General.

Congressman Montgomery serves as a member of the Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the all important Veterans' Affairs Committee. As a member of these two committees he is charged with providing for a strong national defense and assistance for those who serve their country in time of war.

He is an active leader in seeking improved programs and support for the veterans of this nation and in his concern that our nation remains militarily strong.

Comrades, please make welcome, as I present to you, a distinguished fellow member of our organization from the State of Mississippi, the Honorable G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Remarks of Representative Montgomery

Representative Montgomery. Usually when I speak they go off to sleep. It's the first time the photographer fell off the chair. That is the way I like to start it out. Good morning.

Billy Ray, I appreciate the kind introduction and it's a pleasure to be in Dallas. When VFW comes to town the town becomes a hot town. It's hot in more ways than one.

It is a pleasure to be with you again.

I want to congratulate Mr. Coors for receiving this award. The Coors Company certainly has done a lot for the VFW and Veterans in their scholarship program and I want to apologize, Billy Ray, I don't have a gift for you today.

After I finish my remarks the Administrator Harry Walters will talk to you, the number one Veteran in our country, and he does a fine job.

I work with him every week, every day, and when Harry Walters has problems, we call each other on the phone because that is the best way to get together and work out the problems encountered from the administration.

I would like to express the thanks of my Mississippi delegation. You saw them coming down the center aisle. We have over eighty comrades here from Mississippi and our State Commander gave me this cap to wear this morning. I have one; the only cap I have in my office is a VFW cap and doggone it, I left and forgot to bring it.

I am very proud of it that I am a life member so I have one of those caps. We are proud of Mississippi. Some of you have have already done this, but thanks to Mississippi VFW, we tackled Mississippi legislature this last couple months getting the Mississippi legislature to put up funds of three million dollars to match Federal funds for a State Federal Nursing Home in our state. We were successful.

I want to thank my Comrades in Mississippi.

Some of you have already done this. We have got to look forward to taking care of these Veterans in their golden years, and we are very proud that in a state where we have a financial crunch that we didn't get one vote in Mississippi legislature against the funding of our nursing home to take care of our Veterans.

I would like to quote from a great Veteran leader who appeared before our Committee earlier this year. This man said, "We must never forget nor permit the Nation to forget that those Veterans who served overseas in our Armed Forces during periods of war and hostility have rendered a very special service to our great Nation. They have given years of their lives and they have given years from their families and they have given years from their personal endeavors if not also their physical and mental health."

Those words were delivered before the House and Senate Committee this past March and the man who delivered them was your own Billy Ray Cameron.

He is an outstanding spokesman and representative for the VFW. Billy Ray, thank you for a job well done. You have an excellent staff in Washington in Don Schwab, Jim Magill and the other ones. We work with these fellows about every week.

Let's talk about the 99th Congress and what might happen in the rest of this year.

We have passed five of the Bills and sent them to the Senate and they have operated and acted on one of those Bills. I believe that five bills will be enacted by the Senate and the House before we adjourn about November or December.

The committee and the House work hard to protect the Veterans' benefits. It's getting to be a tougher job every year but we will, I believe, continue to be successful.

After a long and frustrating battle in the Congress between the House and Senate we did agree on a Budget Resolution on August 1.

The Budget Resolution conference agreement was adopted by the Congress. It does look pretty good. It does give us a budget which we needed to operate in the Congress.

You ought to have a budget and some lines. It does reduce the deficit about fifty-five billion dollars in the next year and over the next three years two hundred eighty billion dollars. My point is it treats Veterans right.

In addition the House recently passed the VA Appropriation Bill for next year with funding levels that we hope will be adopted by the other body. So we are moving pretty well in the House of Representatives pertaining to Veterans programs.

The VFW, Mr. Commander, I hope you will acknowledge the great work of the Chairman of the Budget Committee, Billy Gray of Pennsylvania, and Del Latta of Ohio, on the Budget Committee and other members who stood their ground and covered the Veterans. We had problems with the Senate.

Just to lay it out to you like it was, Congressman Marvin Leath from Texas who is on leave of absence from the VA Committee serving on the Budget Committee did an outstanding job. He was the man that said, "No, you are not going to do that to Veterans, and we came out pretty well on account of people like him in.

Texas Chairman Ed Boland, Massachusetts, then Bill Green, New York, of the Appropriations Subcommittee that handles the VA funding, deserve much credit for what they have done for Veterans in the fiscal year 1985 supplemental and 1986 VA Appropriations Bills.

The House continues to send a strong message to the budget experts who want to take a whack at Veterans' benefits; we will do all we can to bring government spending under control and reduce the deficit, but we are not going to stand by and see Veterans' benefits cut and other government programs not take their fair share of the cut. We are going to stand up for the Veterans in the Congress.

The House and Senate Budget was different as night and day. Especially the Veterans' benefits. In the Senate the Senate Veterans proposals cut six hundred million dollars out of the Veterans health care. And they had an unworkable means test for how a Veteran can get in a VA hospital.

They had a user fee, Senate proposal, on home loans of about 3.8 percent on Veterans getting home loans. This totally killed the Veterans home loan program which is one of the best programs we have for our Veterans.

Congress is not going to make substantial reductions, in my opinion, in Veterans health care.

Recently on the House floor—I don't know what the member did—I tried to talk him out of it—and he came and offered the Supplemental Appropriations Bill which would cut a hundred eighty million dollars out of medical care for the Veterans' hospitals.

The amendment was debated about five minutes, which is mighty short, and then there was a voice vote. It was a resounding no to defeat the Amendment. I listened and didn't hear any hissing. You still have a lot of friends in the Congress.

Cost of living adjustments: Our Committee and the House are calling for a compensation and DIC increase equal to inflation which is somewhere between 3.5 percent and 4 percent, increase effective December.

Now the pinching programs of Veterans are tied to Social Security and that would be about the same increase when they have the Social Security increase.

The Senate called for no cost of living. The House position prevailed and you will receive it in this fiscal year.

The Administration budget called for, as I mentioned earlier about the increase in user fee, and we were able to do away with that.

Now, it is not all peaches and cream, because the Budget we passed instructed me as Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee to come up with a three years savings of 1.1 billion dollars out of Veterans programs, a savings of that much money.

So if anybody tells you out there that Veterans' don't participate in these cuts and these savings, they are wrong.

In the last four years, we have cut Veterans programs by a billion dollars and have been asked in this Budget next year to find savings of another billion that would be three hundred million in savings in the next fiscal year and four hundred million in '87 and four hundred fifty million dollars in '88. Now can this be accomplished without cutting current programs? I think so. I would like to explain.

Let me make it loud and clear we will reject the Administration proposed "means test" for medical care. It is too complex and unfair.

As a compromise my colleagues, John Paul Hammerschmidt, the Committee's ranking minority member, and I will propose major changes in the Administration's proposal that we believe will actually enhance health care programs for Veterans. We think we will be better off. The VA Administrator, Harry Walters, testified that the eligibility system used in the hospitals now is unfair and I agree with him.

What he wants is to make certain that any Veteran who needs medical care from the VA will get it. We want to take care of our own and the best way to do it is through the VA hospitals.

If you've got a service-connected disability or if you are getting a VA pension benefit or if you just can't afford needed care, the VA should not turn you away from these hospitals. A measure that makes this kind of commitment is what we need now. The question is: How do we do it? And that is my responsibility and I accept it.

First, instead of a base income level of fifteen thousand dollars, which is recommended by the Administration, I propose we raise it to twenty-five thousand dollars. The income level would be automatically adjusted to consumer price index. No Veteran up to this level of income would be required to show his inability to pay for health care.

Any Veteran who is above the income level that is twenty-five thousand dollars or over could, on a space available basis, be admitted to the hospital provided the Veteran agreed to make the same medical payment an individual is required to make for health care under Medicare.

That would be, in 1986, about four hundred seventy-six dollars. Once this payment is made, no other payment would be required over a twelve month period. Outpatient treatment would be provided and unlike the Administration proposal, no Veteran would be locked out of the system. Let me repeat that again, no Veteran would be locked out of the VA medical care system.

Then you are saying, "Mr. Chairman, you sound mighty good up there." Well, where are the savings—where do we make the savings we have been instructed to find?

Rather than savings, the proposal would generate revenue from insurance companies. That is where we get the money to come in, from the insurance companies that collect premiums from thousands of Veterans using VA facilities.

These companies do not pay for any care insured Veterans receive in VA or military hospitals. In fact, the contract has a clause; it prohibits payment of insurance companies to VA and Medicare hospitals.

It is true that our Committee has not seen fit to enact third-party reimbursement or bill insurance companies in the past. We have not done this and, for the current budget situation, I would still prefer to leave these things alone. But the House and Senate have agreed we must do something. Given a choice of cutting current programs or enacting legislation that would prohibit insurance companies from having exclusionary clauses in their contracts, then the choice is clear.

Therefore, under the proposals I have in mind, most of the savings would come from what is collected from the insurance companies with only a minor amount coming from the co-payments required of Veterans who have income above the twenty-five thousand dollar level.

What I have outlined would apply to nonservice connected Veterans regardless of age. The plan is fair and easy to administer. Someone with a splinter no longer gets in and it doesn't jerk the rug out from under some Veteran who really needs health care.

I want to require that the VA take care of the service-connected. We have got to take care of these additionally, POW's, World War I Veterans, Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and radiation and Veterans drawing pension and those with incomes below twenty-five thousand dollars and then on a space available basis, take care of those over the income level and who are willing to make the co-payment.

It is a good deal and I hope we can enact it in the way I have attempted to outline.

I think what I will propose to the Committee will enhance the Veterans health care program. It will hopefully put an end—listen to this—put an end to the Office of Management and Budget nickel and diming the VA to death each year.

We are going to have a voice in legislation and we need you to stand with us. I mean to be prepared, Billy Ray. If you don't stand with the House Committee as it works to find the savings that have been mandated, the administration is going to implement its more limited means test, and we really don't want that.

So I challenge the VFW today to rise up and make it known we will not stand by and see the VA health care chipped away to nothing. We have got people in Washington, some of our opponents, who would like to eliminate our system of medical care. Let me assure you, with your help, we intend to preserve the high quality of medical care now provided by the VA.

In closing I would like to catch up on two items. We have had some successes in these first months of the 99th Congress. And with your help, we turned back the notion of taxing disability compensation.

Let me repeat; we had some success in turning back the notion of taxing disability compensation. That idea came up in connection with the President's tax reform package. You know, Veterans across the Nation couldn't believe this.

What is it? We raised our voices and said "absolutely not." The idea was dropped. Our disabled Veterans have given enough without taxing their income from the government.

The House—and you know, by speaking up, this was a trial plan and we heard from the VFW and individual Veterans about this taxing and that balloon was drawn down quickly.

I promise you, the House, in passing legislation that safeguards against the Administration proposal to consolidate VA's 58 regional offices into three offices, close all our 58 offices and move into three speaker dome offices and bring all these people from around the states into Washington and other places. That wouldn't work.

We passed legislation in the House of Representatives that we need the regional offices in the different states and we do all we can to see that consolidation does not take place.

All in all, we are doing our job holding the line on the increasing attacks on Veterans programs.

We have really gotten a solid front line out there; individual Veterans, service organizations such as VFW and the Congress and VA.

We've got a real friend in the VA Administrator, Harry Walters. He really stood up for us and got some knocks on his head, but I warn you—it is so important I say it every time I am invited to address the VFW—now is not the time for us to rest on past successes. The future rests primarily in your hands. You can continue to be effective only if you remain active and vocal. And I know that if we have strong Posts back in the home states and see that the members of Congress are elected that really help us in Washington, it makes my job and the members of our committee that much easier.

If you sit back and sit on your hands, I guarantee you we'll have problems and troubles on the VA programs.

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is guided by a very simple philosophy: No segment of our society is more deserving of Federal benefits and services than Veterans who have served their country with honor. We will live up to that philosophy.

Thank you and God Bless You.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

(By Vice Chairman J.A. Cheatham, Past Quartermaster General)

Vice Chairman **CHEATHAM.** Chief, National Officers, delegates: Our Committee met yesterday afternoon in a two and a half hour session and had forty resolutions to consider.

First, I will read the resolutions that were referred to the National Veterans Service Committee or that received favorable action from the Committee. If there were any amendments, I will read the wording of the amendments.

Received Resolution Number 212: Recommendation to have the National Service Office take over the administration, cost and running of the Department of Nevada Service Officer program.

The Committee voted to refer this to the National Veterans Service Commitee for its recommendations in accordance with established chanels for handling requests of this type which must eventually come before the National Council of Administration which has the authority to appropriate money.

Resolution Number 220: Form a Committee to Study and Review VFW National By-Laws and Ritual.

It was pointed out to the Committee that the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John Staum already indicated if elected he will appoint a Committee to review the National By-Laws and Ritual and come to the next National Convention with any recommendations for improvement and changes. So the Committee went ahead and approved this Resolution.

Resolution 221: Return "Seeking Former Comrades/Shipmates" Column in the VFW Magazine.

The Committee approved this Resolution.

Resolution 230: Oppose VFW National Home Soliciting Donations Through A Processing Center.

This Resolution was approved with the following amendment changing the last Be It Resolved clause to read:

"Be it further resolved that VFW membership lists shall not be made available for use by outside fundraising firms contracted by the VFW National Home and that use of the VFW membership list for the annual seals fundraising campaign of the National Home be restricted to inhouse mailing by the VFW National Headquarters and that returns be made to the National Home as in prior years."

National Home Trustee **Wasylik**. Mr. Chairman, John Wasylik, Trustee of the National Home. I request Resolution 230 be set aside.

Vice Chairman **Cheatham**. It has been requested to set aside Resolution 230.

Resolution 231: Recommendation to have the National Service Office take over the administration, cost and running of the Department of Utah Service Officer Program.

It was the Committee's recommendation that this be referred to the National Veterans Service Committee for the same reason that I explained on the Resolution 212.

Resolution 240: All American Post Quartermasters.

It was the recommendation of the Committee that this resolution be referred to the National Council of Administration for consideration because of the cost involved and because it involves the National membership program of the VFW, which is developed by direction of the incoming Commander-in-Chief.

For those reasons, it was recommended that Resolution 240 be referred to the National Council of Administration.

Resolution 242: Urge the VFW to implement a Chemical Dependency, Public Awareness Program.

This was approved by the Committee.

Commander-in-Chief, I move that we adopt the recommendations of the Committee except for Resolution 230 that has been requested to be set aside.

[The motion to adopt the recommendations of the Committee to approve Resolutions 220 and 221, to refer Resolutions 212 and 231 to the National Veterans Service Committee and Resolution 240 to the National Council of Administration was seconded by George Lange, Post 2400, and adopted by the Convention.]

Vice Chairman J.A. CHEATHAM. The Committee voted to reject the following Resolutions:

Resolution 201: Change the Official Uniform of the VFW to Include Styles Suitable for Wear by Female Members.
Resolution 203: District Commanders Membership Trip.
Resolution 233: District Commanders Membership Trip.
Resolution 234: District Commanders Membership Trip.
Resolution 235: District Commanders and Post Commanders Membership Trip.
Resolution 204: Provide Club Insurance to all Posts.
Resolution 227: Provide Group Liquor Liability Insurance for VFW Posts.
Resolution 209: Fire, Casualty and Liability Insurance for VFW Posts.
Resolution 205: To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program.
Resolution 236: To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program.
Resolution 237: To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program.
Resolution 238: To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program.
Resolution 239: To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program.
Resolution 207: Publish Pictures of Missing Children in Veterans of Foreign Wars Magazine.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron interrupted the Report of the Committee on Finance and Internal Organization to welcome Harry Walters, Administrator of Veterans Affairs.]

INTRODUCTION OF HARRY N. WALTERS, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Harry Walters was nominated by President Reagan as Administrator of Veterans Affairs November 22, 1982, and was confirmed by the Senate on December 15, 1982.

As the twelfth person to serve as Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Walters heads the largest independent agency in the Federal Government. With 245,000 employees, the VA is larger than all Cabinet Departments except the Defense Department.

Prior to assuming his duties at the Veterans Administration, Mr. Walters served as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

As Assistant Secretary of the Army, he was responsible for the supervision of all Army policy pertaining to manpower and personnel management (military and civilian), mobilization, manpower, equal opportunity, quality of life areas, structure requirements, and operational readiness and management of the Army National Guard and Reserve.

Mr. Walters is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he received All-American honors as a fullback on an undefeated Army football team.

Mr. Walters, prior to being nominated to become the Assistant Secretary of the Army, was owner, president and chief executive officer of the Pottsdam Paper Corporation in Pottsdam, New York.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Harry N. Walters, and I have got to say a close friend of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Harry Walters.

REMARKS OF VA ADMINISTRATOR WALTERS

Administrator **WALTERS**. Thank you, Commander Cameron and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Distinguished Guests, members of Armed Forces present, and employees of Veterans of Administration, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to thank you for inviting me to join in these proceedings. It is a great honor to be with you again this year for your annual convention and I know you are going to have a successful meeting because you share a common pride of country and an uncommon willingness to work for your community and indeed to sacrifice for all America's ideals.

And I know you will have a good time, too. After being with you at your 85th National Convention in Chicago, I know these conventions can be a lot of fun.

Your convention should be special because Veterans of Foreign Wars are special.

If sacrifice and courage and service are valid criteria no group of Veterans in this country is more deserving than the VFW.

No other group has more accomplishments over the years or a more honored place in American society.

The VFW service officers know the book on our VA programs. You have a technical understanding of them and you are wise and imaginative and sympathetic in their use.

You know hospital care is not domiciliary care or nursing home care.

You understand the difference between state and private hospitals and you are able to transmit your understanding to the Veteran who needs a place to go. And to his anxious family.

It is one thing to cite the book to young Veterans who wish schooling under the GI Bill and another think to go beyond the book and provide wise advice which will stand the test of time.

The extent to which you have helped Veterans and their dependents is a measure of your wisdom and worth and your ability to provide assistance to those who have done their duty in conflict is a measure of your devoted dedication, of your energy and of your skill.

You serve a special need, one that can be met by no other group and you serve it well.

As the Veterans Advocate in the Federal Government, I am grateful for the help of friends like your National Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron and Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute and Executive Director Cooper Holt and National Service Director Fred Juarbe and Auxiliary President Glenneta Vogelsang. They assist me immensely in the conduct of this Nation's Veterans Affairs.

I am proud to be with them and my VA associates join me in my strong sense of appreciation for the cooperation and good relations we have enjoyed for almost three years.

We have accomplished a great deal in the last three years as we worked together to help assure the delivery of high-quality health care and benefits to our America's Veterans.

We have not always done everything right nor will we ever do everything right. We continue to improve but only with your advice and help.

The Veterans Administration is a child of the Veterans service organizations but remember: parents instruct and guide and support and they cajole and discipline their children to achieve the results they seek. They do not succeed by beating the child to death.

I believe the open and honest communications we have had during the last three years, the health dialogue on key issues have caused both policy and lawmakers alike to view Veterans as a potent force which is immensely important in Washington, D.C., and very good for the country.

Never forget that America is Number One thanks to the Veterans, or as Doctor Ernie Burgess, the 1985 Olin Teague Award winner, modified the slogan: American is thanks to our veterans.

Being a Veteran encompasses many things: Service to country; a sense of duty and obligation; loyalty to our flag and possessing both courage and honor. The virtues that made America great.

And to Veterans, the vision of the founding fathers is still a vital force. You believe in enlarging the means of freedom and giving it new expressions.

The actual meaning of new expressions, as you know, is knowing freedom is hard, and can be preserved only by continuous efforts. You are America's watchmen on the wall.

And now as Veterans of Foreign Wars, you have certain goals and intentions regarding the VA programs and services and as individuals, each of you has an opinion about what the VA is doing or what it should be doing and I respect your opinions, intentions and goals, and I encourage your suggestions because I want to see new ideas and procedures pumped into the system of health care delivery benefits and to our delivery of normal benefits to the Veterans.

Veterans and their dependents and survivors need your help. Our agency needs your help to meet challenges that change with the times; and let me give you a recent example of how the VA and the service organizations worked together with great success.

As most of you know, the numbers crunchers in Washington were looking at every program to attempt to accomplish their task of simplifying our tax code. One proposed version of the tax simplification legislation included a provision to tax Veterans' disability compensation.

Like you I was appalled. So the service organizations, the VA and Department of Defense and certain key members of Congress, including Montgomery and John Paul, minority member, joined together to educate those who make that decision and we made a formidable team and they got the message across to most of Washington's decision-makers.

I never doubted that President Reagan would come out squarely on the side of Veterans when faced with a decision because he always has, but we wanted to make sure that those around him understood that such provision was unfair and indeed should not be considered.

Working together, the service organizations, VA and DOD, got a lot of people's attention, and we educated them to the point where even David Stockman, who had not always been on our side, as you well know, solidly supported us.

After four years we finally got him educated and then he resigned.

The President did not disappoint us. In fact he made a specific point in outlining the tax proposal on television that Veteran disability compensation will not be taxed. He said: "Veterans have already paid their dues."

And this is one example of how we have been successful in teamwork. And in this regard I would like to pause for a moment to acknowledge your leaders and your staff and salute them for the magnificent job they are doing for all of us. Thank you.

Well, one of the most significant elements in solving challenges in the future will be to arm ourselves with facts. We can work with facts, but rumors, innuendoes and feelings cause great confusion and lead to bitter disappointment and sometimes even disaster.

Unfortunately getting the facts out is a lot easier said than done especially in Washington where so many individual agendas are being worked on all at the same time.

Take the 1986 Budget before it was finally approved by Congress, as an example. Along with the President's Budget submission, which was down in black and white, there were numerous alternative solutions under examination.

Some proposals would have cut the VA and some added to the budget we submitted. The point is there were so many variations that even the staffers on Capitol Hill couldn't keep up with them all.

News of the budget was painfully pessimistic and it was consistently bleak. Veterans and VA employees grew more and more concerned without facts before any approval and in the end it appears that the department VA Medical Care Budget will be increased by five hundred million dollars in the year and I say that is good news, not bad.

Let me pause for a moment—suffering from a little bit of deja vu—and talk to you about budget. It seems to me after three years I'll finally be able to make the proper analogy about the plan of the budget process and I want to share it with you.

I have been married for twenty-three years to a lovely lady. I love her very much. I believe she loves me. We have two children who have moved to the young adult society hopefully to be good citizens. One thing clearly consistent in the twenty-three years of married life is the fact that every year for twenty-three years my wife has put her plan on the table; I placed my budget next to it and my budget has yet to be her plan.

Who could be the first one to throw the stone if your house works a little differently than that?

The point of course is that naturally we have plans for our Veterans, many of which cannot be accomplished in any one budget year but the fact we do have a plan and do have a need is still true.

I would like to remind you about an incident that happened not too long ago when a Florida newspaper did an "expose" on the cardiac surgery unit at one of our local hospitals. The paper lacked the facts but that didn't seem to matter, nor did it matter when a complete investigation was conducted by the VA or when the House held hearings and experts supported our VA program.

None of this got into the paper; it should have.

It should have mattered. Because of the alarm the papers caused, the cardiac surgery was temporarily terminated in Miami and Veterans were needlessly upset.

None of this got to the paper. It never relented and when the House Veterans Affairs Sub-Committee hearings didn't agree with the paper's conclusions, the paper called the hearings a "sham."

Well, the real sham was the paper's "scare story." And a real tragedy may be written about some time in the future when some Veteran who needs heart surgery refuses to come to the VA for care because he has been scared.

I hope such a tragic thing never happens but chances are it will. Chances are some Veteran will be afraid to come to us for care and that will be worse than a sham. That will be a real shame.

It does Veterans a great disservice to undermine their confidence with scare stories that ignore the facts and I want you to help me do something about it.

I want you to continue to help me get out the truth and help me find better ways to help all our Veterans, and I know you are beginning to set the record straight on the VA.

Along with asking our agency to continue seeking new and better ways to treat patients I want better communication with those to be served.

I want us to improve our methods of administering benefits and upgrade our services. I want us to be more efficient in all our functions and operations.

I want us constantly striving to expand the opportunities and fulfill the expectations and potential of that special segment of the American populace we are privileged to serve.

I want us to continue to be the best, serving America's finest, so I will need your help.

And I know you are busy, busy planning activities, working on legislation and I know that you are training your people.

And we are busy in VA too and we are busy seeking better methods or better performance and better results and we intend to stay busy for as far ahead as any of us can see.

We pray there be no more wars and no new war Veterans, no more young men and women returning home with injuries and the problems and the disabilities so many of you are familiar with.

Even if there are no more wars we will stay busy caring for the Veteran population that is reaching the time of life when it will need medical assistance as never before.

To meet this challenge we are developing a plan modernizing all the VA operations, and we will be considering various efficiency alternatives as we develop our modernization plans.

We are pursuing an agency-wide data processing and telecommunications modernization goal as a major part of our management goal which will provide better service to the Veterans through the increased use of modern technology.

The VA is Sears and Roebuck 25 years ago. What may work in Miami may not work in San Francisco. That is overstated; we are better than that. We are far behind with the use of modern technology to enact efficient quick accurate decisions for our Nations Veterans when they make claims. What we intend to do is fix that by starting now.

We are building on the mission and goals which the Department heads and I established shortly after I joined the VA.

You can be sure that VA activity and our strong commitment to the needs of the Veterans will continue absolutely undiminished.

The fact that we are accomplishing our mission is probably our best assurance that we will continue to receive the resources that we need.

We will never neglect our responsibilities but we must anticipate changing requirements and design effective programs, programs to meet both our current and future needs.

Be assured that the VA is determined to provide superior service whatever the criteria.

Veterans deserve the best because you have already given your best.

Now as a private citizen as well as a public official, I appreciate this brief opportunity to recognize the great service you have given and continue to give our country.

Your deeds will not be forgotten. And the American people will always remember the price you paid for the liberty and the opportunity we enjoy and those who made the greatest sacrifice will always remain very special in our memories.

I have not concluded any speech that I made public or private for VA without reminding the audience of a motto we brought to the VA two and a half years ago, a motto in the form of a bumper sticker, America is No. 1 Thanks to Our Veterans. I am sure it is corny or trite but nobody called me stupid for this bumper sticker. It says what we are.

INTRODUCTION OF GEN. THOMAS K. TURNAGE, DIRECTOR OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Next I would like to introduce to you the Director of the Selective Service.

General Turnage was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for the position of Director, Selective Service, on October 31, 1981. He retired as a Major General the previous day from military service which extended over thirty-nine years.

General Turnage was commissioned through the ROTC in 1942 and subsequently served in all three of the Army's components—Reserve, Active and National Guard. He served in combat as an Infantry Officer during World War II and again in the Korean conflict. His assignments included seven years as the Deputy Adjutant General and Deputy Commanding General of the California Army National Guard as well as the Commander of the 40th Infantry Division (mechanized).

In addition to the Combat Infantry Badge (with Star), he has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Korean Presidential Unit Citation and numerous service medals reflecting two wars and four tours of active duty.

Comrades, please welcome a native Texan, General Thomas K. Turnage.

REMARKS AND PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS BY SELECTIVE SERVICE DIRECTOR TURNAGE

Director TURNAGE. Commander-in-Chief Cameron and distinguished members of Veterans of Foreign Wars: Greetings.

For some reason everybody expects the Director of Selective Service to start off that way. It is a special honor for me to be given this prime time on the busy National Convention calendar and I promise not to burden you with a long commercial advertising for Selective Service.

I am here today to thank you for your steadfast support of our organization, of our function. I particularly want to pay tribute to Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron.

I am grateful to VFW for supporting Congressman Jerry Sullivan's legislation to deny Federal loans to students who refuse to register. This won't go to the student who flaunts a law and fails to accept the obligation of his country.

VFW has a Resolution that calls for return to a fair and loophole free military draft as soon as practicable and equitable. I can't tell you when Congress might determine that return to the draft is practicable and equitable, but I can tell you that any future draft under our auspices will be fair and loophole free.

There won't be a student—in fact there will be very few deferments of any kind and the future draft will be fair and equitable because ninety-nine percent of all draft eligible young men are already registered with us and the computer has over fifteen and a half million and we are vigorously pursuing the other one percent.

I think all of us agree with me when I say that the young man who wishes to enjoy the benefits of living in our great country must also accept the obligations of citizenship.

VFW had a smart campaign to deny Federal employment to those who refuse to register. I thank you. Federal jobs should go to our Veterans who protect our freedom and security.

Any man who is opposed to registering for Selective Service doesn't deserve to be on the Federal payroll.

Thanks to the VFW that is now the law of the land. The strongest test of citizenship obligation is the performance of service in defense of the Nation and every VFW member has done that test, and you continue to serve your country by participating in VFW activities.

National thanks you for your Buddy Poppies and flag waving parades and for your many youth activities and for the involvement in key issues affecting the security of this land.

I am particularly pleased and appreciative of your support of the Selective Service System in that regard.

I might ask at this time how many of you still have your draft cards? Now how many of you still have the uniform that fits?

I have to tell you I am delighted to know that and it gives me great comfort by virtue of your involvement in VFW. I always know where I can get you in time of need.

Billy Ray, would you please join me here, sir?

It is a great pleasure that I present to you this distinctive award from a grateful Selective Service System. I thank you for your continuing dedication to National preparedness and I thank you and your organization for the many responses to us for furtherance of our mission. We are grateful to you.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Thank you for the nice plaque from the Selective Service.

At this time we will continue with the Report of the Committee on Finance and Internal Organization.

Vice Chairman Cheatham. Thank you Commander-in-Chief. I will continue with the Resolutions rejected by the Committee.

Resolution 208: VFW National Home Guest Lodge.
Resolution Number 210: Buddy Poppy Promotion.
Resolution Number 211: Change Imprint on VFW Standard Letterhead.

Convention Delegate. Ask that Resolution 208 be set aside.

Vice Chairman Cheatham.

Resolution 213: World War I Veterans.
Resolution 214: Eliminate Dual Membership.
Resolution 215: National Cancer Fund for Veterans.
Resolution 216: VFW National Award Winners to VFW National Convention.
Resolution 217: Oppose National Take Over of Programs.
Resolution 218: Provide photo of VFW National Home.
Resolution 219: List Chaplain and Judge Advocate on Officers Report Form.
Resolution 222: Barneveld Disaster.
Resolution 223: Require VFW Meeting Places to be Accessible to Disabled Members.
Resolution 224: Restrict Printing of Political Endorsements in Publications.
Resolution 225: Provide Membership Broadcast Media Campaign.

Chester Koch. Koch from Ohio. A word on one rejection, Resolution on World War I rejection. I think it's 213.

Vice Chairman Cheatham. What do you want done with that?

Chester Koch. Set aside.

Vice Chairman Cheatham. Resolution 213 set aside as was Resolution 208.

Resolution 226: Provide VFW Medicare supplement insurance.
Resolution 228: Make Available a VFW Patch to Designate Volunteer Service.
Resolution 229: To Establish Drug Abuse and Alcohol Control Program As a Separate Program.
Resolution 232: Change System of Setting Yearly Quotas of Buddy Poppies.
Resolution 241: Restoration of Fort McHenry.

[At the request of delegates, Resolutions 208 and 213 were set aside.

[With the exception of Resolutions 208 and 213, which were set aside, the Report of the Committee to reject the Resolutions disapproved by the Committee on Finance and Internal Organization was adopted by the Convention on Motion of Committee Chairman Cheatham which was seconded by George Lange, Post 2400.

[Finance and Internal Organization Committee Vice Chairman Cheatham announced that the Committee will meet again at 12:30

p.m. to consider Resolution 243 introduced at the Convention by the Department of Pennsylvania.]

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief **Staum**. Resolution Number 208 was set aside. A motion to adopt Resolution 208 is necessary in order to bring it back up on the floor for discussion.

[A motion by Dino Constantini, Commander, Department of Michigan, seconded by delegate Chester Koch, Post 1415, Ohio, to adopt Resolution 208 was introduced.]

DISCUSSION ON RESOLUTION 208, VFW NATIONAL HOME GUEST LODGE

Convention **Delegate**. I move at this time we bring it back on the floor for discussion.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief **Staum**. You want a motion to have it approved.

Convention **Delegate**. Yes, sir.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief **Staum**. Is there a second to that?

Chester Koch. Comrade Commander, Koch seconds.

Convention **Delegate**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, we feel in the Department of Michigan that there hasn't been enough information sent out on closing the Guest House. We are not aware of the loss of money and also we feel that it could be utilized to better use and we also heard through the grapevine that it's deteriorated. We feel it could be brought up to standards and we could utilize that house and it could be self-sufficient. Thank you.

Vice Chairman **Cheatham**. Comrades, the reason this was rejected by the Committee as as follows: The property of the VFW National Home is held and managed by the Board of Trustees, a separate corporation with full power and authority. The Resolution calls for this convention to rescind the action of another corporation, which is not our prerogative. Since this Resolution concerns matters under the jurisdiction of the National Home, it is inappropporate for the National Convention to approve it.

We feel the Comrades have some ideas that are different than those promoted by the Board and the proper people to notify and work with would be the members of the Home Board.

National Home Trustee **Wasylik**. Thank you. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Comrades: I am John Wasylik, member of the Board of Trustees of the VFW National Home and presently serve as financial chairman.

I will be going into detail on another Resolution about the finances of the Home, but let me tell you at the present time that the VFW National Home is faced with a deficit budget for this year. As all of you know, we do not have deficit budgets in the VFW on any level, including the Home.

Because of the fact we are in a financial crunch, the Board very carefully looked at all aspects of the operation. We had considered closing the lodge at a previous time, but there was unionizing activity on campus. Because we did not want a National Labor Relations Board Citation against us, we were unable to proceed with our actions.

I can tell you that in analyzing the lodge, we found that we were losing from forty to sixty thousand dollars per year on the lodge operation, half of which the National Ladies Auxiliary picked up.

We did not feel we could justify that type of loss knowing our financial crunch. We did not, unfortunately, or we were not able to notify everybody in advance of the intention to close the lodge because of the unionizing tactics that I previously announced to you. So we had to wait and do it somewhat quickly.

We are closing it because we don't have the money to keep it open. I heard a lot of comments about keeping it open but I haven't heard anybody tell us where to get the money.

We have a problem with our fund raising that will come up on Resolution 230 which I will speak more detail on later.

Let me speak just briefly to the aspect of publicity.

We have been accused of not giving enough public information in relation to the Guest Lodge. That Guest Lodge, by the way, is in excellent maintenance. We put a lot of money into it the first couple years thinking we could utilize the property and so it's, for the age of it and all, in reasonably good maintenance condition.

There are eight double rooms, Comrades and Sisters, eight double rooms and four singles. We are running into the problem that when you come to visit us you like to come in a group. Many times you come on a bus.

When you bring a bus load to that Guest Lodge, the only way we can accommodate all of you would be to put pup tents out in back. I don't think you are at the age you want to use tents.

You end up going to motels in Lansing and Jackson and our lodge has a five to eight percent unoccupancy rate.

We have gone to the extreme of getting the service clubs in the area to utilize our Guest Lodge for their noon luncheons, trying to derive additional income from that. That has not been successful. So we have tried. We have looked at the operation of it and we felt that in the best interest of the Home we have we had to look at the children. We have to utilize the money for the children and not keep the lodge open. For that reason, I urge that you sustain the Board and allow us to keep it closed.

Convention DELEGATE. Senior Vice, Lawrence Jack, Post 9021, Department of Michigan. With all due respect for the Honorable Past Commander-in-Chief, I accept the fact that this is a separate corporation as announced from the podium but, Comrades, I am also a life member of the National Home as are many of you. The decision to close this National Home was made arbitrarily by the Trustees without any word or letter or anything sent out to the life membership.

I believe the life membership has a right to speak on the subject of closing the Guest Home.

It was made arbitrarily. Word came out after the fact it was going to be closed; and so far as the use of the Guest House is concerned, I come from the State of Michigan; I have been going to the National Home for years. I have gone to the motels with the understanding that the Guest House was strictly for the VIP's and Trustees. I never used it. Poor publicity is given.

I will give another example. I attended the Junior Vice Commander's conference this past spring and I had not asked about going to the Guest House; the Guest House remained empty. All of the delegates who was invited to the National Home were housed in the City of Lansing. The Guest House remained empty when it could have been well utilized.

I am saying I think it will make money if people know it exists. They will be glad to visit and stay there.

Thank you very much.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Staum. Thank you. Is there any other discussion on this motion?

Jack Carney, Post 4643, Florida. Comrades, I would certainly not take anything from the Department of Michigan.

Based on the utilization of the National Home I can tell you that for four months I happened to be the only tenant in the National Home during a trying period of time and I state with all sincerity, with all sincerity, we tried to encourage the people to come to the National Home to assist us, to assist us during this trying period of time, to come to the Guest House, to stay at the Guest House and push us through so we could go on.

Well, I can tell you did not happen, but in fact I did know of a couple departments who said to me, "Jack, we will hold a Council of Administration meeting; we'd want to have subcommittees to mix business with our visit to the National Home; we will utilize the facilities at Lansing, Michigan, to do this so we too can socialize and attend to department business." We thank you for the offer but they did not return to the house. They did not come.

In 19— late 40's, this Guest House was established with the understanding, with the understanding that there was no facilities readily available in Eaton Rapids and Lansing, Michigan, and there weren't, so we built them and accommodated Eaton Rapids and Lansing, Michigan, to have the facilities available and this is where the troops go, so I join Doctor Wasylik sustaining the recommendation of the Committee to reject this Resolution.

Robert E. Hansen, Past Commander-in-Chief, Trustee, District Number 9. I would like a point of information, that even if this Resolution were adopted what effect does it have on the National Home Board?

Adjutant General Vander Clute. Howard Vander Clute. Delegate from 6467. It appears to me that this cannot be resolved because of the final paragraph which says:

> "*Be it further resolved*, that the action taken by the VFW National Home Board of Trustees be rescinded at once and that no further action of this type be contemplated."

This body does not have, in my opinion, the power to overturn the decision of a National Home Board.

However, if this convention wants to express its feeling we could simply amend, or, if you will accept an amendment by deleting the final paragraph; and leave be it resolved as it is and leave it as the expression of this convention, and if, sir, you will accept that amendment, I so move.

[Finance and Internal Organization Committee Vice Chairman Cheatham seconded the motion to amend Resolution 208.]

Adjutant General Vander Clute. The amendment provides that the be it resolved clause read:

"Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we disapprove the action taken by the VFW National Home Board of Trustees to close the Guest Lodge.

If adopted, this would be an opinion expressed by the National Convention to the National Home Board of Trustees to give consideration to in the future. We certainly can't anticipate—for none of us go to the National Home that often to know they are wrestling with financial problems.

The National Home Board members indicated to the convention they cannot balance their budget. Is it for us then to tell them where they spend the money or should the money be expended out on the Guest Lodge when it's needed in child care or for maintaining our programs more prevalent to the care of those that are now housed there, or is it important that we have a Guest House?

If you visited the Guest Lodge in the recent years, you would know certainly it was in disrepair. It was not always as clean as we might expect it to be, perhaps because of the poor capabilities of the staff. Now it would seem to be impossible for this body to make such a decision and I think by supporting the amendment we are expressing to the National Home Board the feeling of this convention that we will allow them to manage their own affairs.

ROBERT E. HANSEN, Past Commander-in-Chief. Comrade Commander-in-Chief Bob Hansen, District 9 Trustee of National Home Board. What is important is, as Doctor Wasylik and Jack Carney stated, that if there is any department, any source of money that want to stand at this microphone or any of these microphones and offer us fifty thousand dollars to cover the deficit I will guarantee you we will reconsider at the next meeting and have it open, but I have seen nobody stand up showing at this meeting saying we would do it, nor do I find, as a matter of tactics, an amendment presented that if you wish to request us that we keep it open maybe we can talk the National Organization into picking up the deficit.

The Ladies Auxiliary today have charge of picking up—they absorbed fifty percent of the deficit. The fact of the matter is what comes first, as put ably by the Adjutant General, the children in that home, upkeep needed in their particular cottages the ability that we need to change and bring up to date the electrical systems in each building, put roofs on those cottages, the doing away of the red tag of some of our facility by the Fire Marshall or ability to qualify for the Michigan State certification of our Home.

Comrades, I urge you to understand that none of the members of that Board wish to close that Home any more than you want to see it closed, but when it comes to a matter of priority, please give the priority ability and recognize that you have elected us your Comrades and your Sisters to take care of it in our best judgment and the children of that Home come first and a Guest House some place else down the priority list. Thank you.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief **STAUM**. Is there any other discussion on this Resolution and amendment? Understand that we have to vote for the amendment first.

[Motion was to delete the last paragraph]

Be it further resolved, that action taken by the VFW National Home Board of Trustees be rescinded at once and no further action of this type be contemplated.

Vote of aye would be in favor of deleting.

All in favor of deleting this last paragraph signify by the usual sign.

Convention DELEGATES. Aye.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief STAUM. Opposed.

Convention DELEGATES. No.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief STAUM. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

The convention will vote on the motion to accept Resolution Number 208 as amended regarding the VFW National Home Guest Lodge.

The resolved clause of Resolution 208 now reads:

> Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that we disapprove the action taken by the VFW National Home Board of Trustees to close the Guest Lodge.

You understand what we are doing here? All in favor of this motion signify by the usual sign.

Convention DELEGATES. Aye.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief STAUM. Opposed, no.

Convention DELEGATES. No.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief STAUM. No's have it; the motion to adopt Resolution 208 as amended is defeated.

Vice Chairman CHEATHAM. Resolution 213 was set aside.

Resolution Number 213 has to do with World War I Veterans; and let me say first of all it isn't our intent to do away with them.

Let me read the be it resolved clause.

> "*Be it resolved*, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that we show our sincere gratitude to World War I Veterans by endorsing a voluntary plan whereby any World War I Veteran who meets the eligibility requirements for membership should be allowed to forego the intitiation fee and annual dues of our organization; and
>
> "*Be it further resolved*, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Commander of World War I Veterans to inform his membership of this Resolution."

I did not give you a reason for the rejection. The reason for the rejection is this would not conform to the By-Laws because there is no provision in VFW By-Laws for giving memberships to anyone. And many of the Posts are paying the dues of their World War I members and some of them just purchase life memberships for them which is certainly better.

So we do not feel this would be in order at all to adopt a Resolution approving something contrary to the VFW By-Laws.

If this needs to be changed, then there should be an amendment to the VFW By-Laws making free memberships for individuals. It is for this reason and this reason only that the Committee voted to reject this particular Resolution.

CHESTER KOCH. Chester Koch, Past Commander, Post 1415 Cleveland, Ohio. I withdraw my motion to reconsider Resolution 213 but may I ask the chair, is there a Resolution calling for the pension for World War I? I have been on this floor for fifty-one years and I have never heard a convention that didn't recognize a resolution on World War I for pension.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Chester, there is a Resolution on the World War I Pension.

CHESTER KOCH. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thanks a lot Chester. Chester is ninety-two years old and a very, very good friend of this organization. I had an opportunity to visit in his hometown, Cleveland, Ohio, and he is well accepted in that city and we thank you.

Vice Chairman CHEATHAM. Resolution 230: Oppose National Home Soliciting Donations Through a Processing Center was set aside.

I reported that Resolution 230 was recommended for approval with certain amendments and in order to get this on the floor for your voting, I move that Resolution 230 as amended be accepted.

[The motion to adopt Resolution was seconded by George Lange, Post 2400.]

Past Commander-in-Chief and National Home Trustee WASYLIK. Commander-in-Chief, John Wasylik, member of Post 2529, Sandusky, Ohio, District 4, Trustee of the National Home and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the National Home this year.

Comrades, I stand before you to urge that you defeat Resolution 230. I am going to impose upon your time, if I might, to tell you why.

Let me say to you that I had the unfortunate timing to go on the Board of Trustees six years ago at the time we discovered the terrible embarrassment and had to replace the administrator and treasuer and at that time there were many that felt that because of the embarrassment the Home should be closed and many felt it should have another chance.

They were in the majority and the Board of Trustees cleaned up that place and said, "Let's take care of the children."

I am going to tell you here today that the Board of Trustees of the National Home has been, without question in my mind, the hardest working group that this organization has ever seen. We have a very hard working group and you know where I am coming from.

I mean two to three days in lengths from 8:00 to 10:00 or 12:00 midnight every day. We have redone the policy manuals; we have studied the maintenance, we have studied the handling of the children, the care of the children. We have upgraded the staff.

We have worked very, very diligently to make sure that that Home is once again a shining jewel in the proud programs that we were so proud of in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary and Military Order of the Cootie.

I am proud, intensely proud of the Home. We are not perfect. I don't stand before you and say we are perfect but we are in great shape. However, while we were working so hard on maintenance and care of the children and policy manuals, something else happend to us, something that has happened to each of you in your Homes; our income stayed the same while our expenses continued to escalate.

As Finance Chairman I was faced this year with a deficit budget. As I said earlier, you can't have a deficit budget in Veterans of Foreign Wars, and we knew that we had our choice to cut back staff or we could reduce the number of children, or we could go out and find some way to increase the amount of funds coming in to your National Home.

Now we have two major sources of funds at the National Home: One of them is your endowment fund. That endowment fund has grown to about eight million dollars in size and of that, Comrades and Sisters, our By-Laws say we can only use the interest and dividends. We are not permitted to use the endowment fund and it's probably just as well because the income from that endowment fund gives us one-third of the budget we use to take care of the children you sent us.

The other source of major income is the seals program. So we sat down and looked at the seals programs and it was suggested that because this was the 60th year of the existence of the National Home that we ought to tie together the seals program and 60th anniversary and use a professional fund raiser for that purpose in order to give us some ready cash, some immediate cash to get us over this hump while in the meantime we plan to come out to all of you and ask for you to subscribe to more life memberships so we can build that endowment fund so we aren't coming back to you with other fund raising efforts at a future time.

Now, getting a professional fund raiser; we said, 'All right. Who to get? Epsilon." After all, the National Organization has used them for the service fund and for the PAC funds. If they used them obviously they are a good company and we researched Epsilon and we found out that Epsilon has the National Cancer Research Fund, American Bible Association, Catholic Relief Service; obviously they must have a good reputation.

As I said, our organization used them and other organizations I just listed used them, so they must be reliable and they did say they would be willing to sign an affidavit that they wouldn't sell the list of members or donors. We had a phone call among the Board and told them as a Committee what we had in mind and the report said, "Yes, let's go forward and go to the National Organization and get permission of the men and women to have this fund raiser."

We went to the National Organization in Washington in March and a motion was made on the floor that we be permitted to have the fund raising program knowing that we then would be back to Epsilon and they said, "All right, let's have a trial fund raising using the life members of the Home."

We mailed letters, Comrades, to the sixty thousand life members of the Home in June and July and it cost us thirty thousand dollars and we have already received a hundred and ten thousand dollars.

A very good percentage return.

We have heard a couple complaints that the letter needs to be rewritten. We assured the incoming Chief and incoming President that if we were permitted to use this company we will have that letter rewritten to their satisfaction.

We heard some few who said, "We don't want to send the money to Massachusetts to that bank."

We said, "All right." There is a bank in Lansing, Michigan, adjacent to us.

We looked at those aspects and we are trying to improve them.

All of a sudden we find ourselves faced with a Resolution which is rewritten to preclude our using a professional fund raiser.

Comrades we have committed ourselves based on these seals, and the resolution in March. We have committed ourselves to Epsilon and we are liable already for certain costs based on that.

We were told—let me tell you, we have been doing the seals program inhouse for the last several years. It does not produce enough money inhouse. We were told to do it inhouse. We get approximately nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year and it costs us three hundred fifty thousand and that leaves a net of between six and seven hundred thousand dollars doing it inhouse.

Some folks protested the resolution saying National Headquarters cannot personalize the letter and use the quality of letter that Epsilon can do for us.

So I am saying to all of you I don't know why this resolution came forth.

I am a little puzzled. You know, we sat quietly and haven't said a thing to all of you about the administering costs we have inherited; we paid thirty-five thousand dollars to get the Poppy money.

Seems to me the By-Laws say we are supposed to get a penny for every Poppy you people sell and we don't. I don't know why the resolution came up.

I don't know why we are faced with this restriction after we were told to go ahead. It seems to me there is some hidden undercurrent here and I would say to you—this is not a threat; it is a fact of life—I believe to get that money into the treasury we are going to have to cut back our program.

If we utilize the funds we have in cash, which outside of that we will lose the interest income, what happens is we wind down each year and we cut the program more until there isn't a National Home.

So I am asking you to defeat this resolution. Let the National Home progress; increase the program if possible and we need monies to do that. We need your support to do that. Thanks very much.

PAT BOHMER, State Commander, Minnesota. Comrades, at this time I rise before this delegation. We as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars elect the National Home Board to perform the duties which are prescribed in the By-Laws and if we as a body cannot let that Committee operate the way they should and make sound financial decisions on that Home, we shouldn't have this body elected as the Board to the National Home. Thank you.

Vice Chairman CHEATHAM. If I may address the motion here under consideration. I would mention to you that the Council of Administration, in all the years I have been around the organization, has always granted the National Home use of the mailing list for their seal program and that has happened, as I understand it, for this year.

They, the Home Board, used their own list of life members—I happen to be one—they solicited the Life Members of the Home and as I understand it the money went back to some place in Massachusetts and the National Organization had a number of complaints from VFW members, also life members, because of the handling of this solicitation by an outside firm, and that is the reason the amendment—the reason the resolution was amended and basically the difference between the two is whether an outside firm handles the mailing of the solicitation letters or whether the National Organization handles the mailings of solicitation letters.

Let me mention to you, to clarify this, I worked on the contract when Epsilon worked on the Veterans Service solicitation. We made an agreement with them they would do certain tests when they finished the first batch and they came back with another cost for doing the second test. Howard Vander Clute in three minutes got twenty-five thousand dollars knocked off the cost of the extra overhead for promotion bids for those people; so what we did was put in our next contract we owned the materials that were used that were written by the Epsilon Company.

That is, the National Organization had the right to use those in any further mailings. Then Epsilon came back to the bid to handle the funds themselves and mailing, except the money was coming back to the National Organization.

We did this; we felt the charges were inappropriate. We put the same materials written by Epsilon—we put the same materials, because they are now ours—we put the same materials out and saved the organization—a bid from outside firms was a hundred fifty-seven thousand dollars less by our handling it ourselves.

Now the Adjutant General and Quartermaster General decided that we would do this. We did this. We were—money was coming into Kansas City. There was something about the Quartermaster, didn't want Epsilon to handle the money, didn't want it delivered to banks. We did handle the funds ourselves and it was for this reason the Quartermaster supported the National Organization in handling this.

PAC was handled by Epsilon. Their total cost, final cost came down; total cost of all mailing was fifty cents on every dollar collected. In other words when you gave a dollar, fifty cents went for promotion cost, Epsilon, profits, and cost of mailing follow-up letters and all these things.

It's our feeling this can be handled more economically by the National Organization and in addition to that the National Organization would have control of your names on a list. That is a very, very valuable asset of the National Organization.

We can keep it guarded and there is no intent to stop the National Home from using outside sources. They have the right to prepare whatever letter they want to use. Epsilon can write the letter for appeal. It was our suggestion and approval of the Committee after hearing this Committee's suggestion they follow the lessons learned by the National Organization and try to get this mailing out so that the National Home would make more profit from the mailing than they would have by letting some outside firm handle the promotion bid.

It was for that reason that the National Committee endorsed the change here and I recommend this be approved as amended.

Convention Delegate. Commander-in-Chief, Delegates: Post 149. I preface my remarks, as a Life Member of the National Home, Life Member of the VFW, Past Commander. Our post having been instituted 20 years ago, every year supports several thousand dollars for the National Home Scholarship.

I think all this discussion is beautiful for the simple reason that when we talk about the way it is a lot of our membership is gun shy because of all of the solicitations they receive, not only from our National Organization but from every agency throughout the United States.

Today sophisticated society is part of the communication and technology and everything else concerned, we read them and hear about privacy, about computer experts making this and that and whatever they want to and there really is no protection as far as privacy of any mailing list in this country.

I would like to call to your attention that in the best interest and protection of the mailing list of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, according to the By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, has got to lie with this convention and not lie with the Council of Administration.

I quote to you right from the book, if I may, under the By-Laws of the control of mailing lists; it says that the members of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be considerd confidential and shall not be made available for commercial or political use.

I do not consider the National Home commercial or political but I would like to take you to the Manual of Procedure where it says that the Commander-in-Chief is in sole control of a mailing list.

Now, what is it about the mailing list? I suggest we have to go back and rewrite the Manual of Procedure and By-Laws. I suggest to the National Home Board they submit a letter to the Commander-in-Chief and let him make that decision.

Convention DELEGATE from Minnesota. The objective of the Home includes care of widows and orphans. We are talking about opposing the use of the mailing list for the National Home.

It seems odd that we provide the mailing list for the Political Action Committee; we have given in to the Political Action and used it for insurance purposes and insurance programs, every member of the so-called life insurance, and we provided it to all of the country but yet for a program that is approved by the National Home, approved by the convention and Board of Directors as set up by the convention seems odd to oppose the use of VFW mailing lists to that Board and if this is what the resolution says, the resolution should be rejected.

Convention DELEGATE. Comrade Commander, I rise to speak about this 230. We didn't put this resolution in to stop this solicitation. We put the resolution in to keep outside firms from having thirty percent of what should be going to the National Home and to let us put it out, ourselves, inhouse, and then our list would be protected inhouse.

In other words, our names wouldn't be on every damn shop mail list in the country. We would have it within the organization, within oursleves. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. I will recognize two more speakers and that is all. Mike 2.

Convention DELEGATE. I fail to understand why we don't let the Home Board operate the Home. I understand from the discussion here that they have an excellent contract. If this resolution goes through, who is going to pay off that contract? I looked at the Press Box a few moments ago. We are talking about the National Home. Your Commanders were talking about the National Home.

Why are we trying to stifle them? There is a rejection of the resolution I urge the rejection of the resolution.

Commander-in-Chief **Cameron**. Mike 2, last speaker.

Past Commander-in-Chief **Bob Hansen**. Trustee, District Number 9, National Home.

I am glad that all of you have listened attentively to the process by which we are being directed. Doctor John Wasylik talked to you as Chairman of our Finance Committee, but as a member of the Finance Committee last year, I want to straighten out a few other things that you clearly understand how and why they are in the present position.

I don't get on this floor very often to debate the issues with my colleagues and with the members of that staff sitting up there on the National Convention floor but in this particular case I am an elected member of that—Trustee of that Board to carry out the best management we can for those children and keep that Home operating, because four years ago you made that decision that you did not want the Home to be closed. I don't believe that you want the Home to be closed right now.

Diligent work was put into operating that Home. It has not been done wrecklessly. It has been done in cooperation with the Kansas City Office and as a member of the Finance Committee last year, in trying to figure out how we were going to get enough money to maintain our Home, the property that we have, and what it needed to take care of the children, we were caught in a Catch 22.

Everyone in this hall will stand up and say we have got ninety children, we should have a hundred twenty-five; we have got ninety children and we can't stand the spin-offs of ninety children. You bring in twenty-five tomorrow and we have a quarter of a million down the deficit and I won't tell you the process we went through.

I happen to have in my hand some things that have to be read directed to Doctor Ted Wilson. I have been asked to read a letter to the endorsement of Epsilon.

In my opinion their office is one of integrity and intelligent cooperation and complied with all conditions contained in the test contract.

I have another one here. It goes on to say, "I am pleased to recommend Epsilon Data Management to you should you decide to utilize any agency."

This is to the Council of Administration last March, Washington, D.C.

And all of these objections to our being involved with this company, why didn't they bring those objections up to the Council of Administration before we were authorized to proceed? Why not tell us to get out of it. As they say we are into a contract today; if we can't fulfill that agreement, we are subject to a six hundred thousand dollar libel suit.

I want to tell you it doesn't take you too long to figure out what Doc Wasylik said; inhouse we have been doing it year after year. We have been trying to upgrade to get more money in return based on these letters we received.

We decided also maybe the timing of our letters is wrong; we will send our letter out with the seal contribution sometime in March and April.

Then I have to tell you what the Quartermaster told you; we have an obligation to the insurance company. You can't infringe on their time.

Well, I want to tell you what I said to him. I take exception that we were sold to the insurance company and if the National Home cannot raise this money during the period, that will not conflict with our dues. Then something has happened in our organization. We were told that Members of the Board need to bring it to the Council of Administration meeting at the Washington Conference. It was brought there and we were given the authority to do it. If you don't defeat this resolution today, your Home Board is not only faced with a deficit spending at this point but we are faced with another additional six hundred thousand dollars to pick up because we can't comply or some place in between that figure and wherever it settles out of court because we can't comply with a contract of which we got into by direction of our letters that I just read to you.

I appeal to you, Comrades, if you want the Home to continue, if you want us charged with the management of giving good direction to those children, then don't tie our hands as they did to the Vietnam Veterans in Vietnam. Let us handle your, manage your Home in your best interest. Thank you.

[After clarification of the motion before the body to adopt Resolution 230, as amended, Commander-in-Chief Cameron called for the vote. Those in favor of adoption of Resolution 230, as amended, were asked to stand. Following that, those opposed to the adoption of Resolution 230, as amended, were asked to stand. Commander-in-Chief Cameron ruled that the majority opposed the adoption of the resolution and declared the motion to adopt Resolution 230, as amended, defeated.]

Vice Chairman CHEATHAM. May I remind the Committee that the Committee shall meet again to go over Resolution 243 to be considered in the same room we met yesterday and the time of the meeting is 12:30 p.m.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. At this time, I recognize Hawaii Commander Nakoa.

Commander NAKOA. On behalf of the Department and Ladies Auxiliary I would like to present this to Comrade Al Cheatham for an outstanding job as Quartermaster 1962 to 1985.

Finance and Internal Organization Vice Chairman CHEATHAM. Thank you.

Convention DELEGATE. Comrades, DiLoretto, Commander Pennsylvania, I rise for a question of information: Will the Committee on Finance and Internal Organization made its final report today? If not when will they make their final report?

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. The Committee will complete its report tomorrow or the next day.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. The winners as a result of competition in the parade will be presented their award by the Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, front and center of this hall. As the winners advance to the front and center of this hall, they will be escorted by the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Best Performing Band: Brady High School Marching Band, VFW Post 4462, Shoreview, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Best Appearing Senior Mens VFW Color Guard: Pennsylvania State VFW Color Guard, Mechanisburg, Pennsylvania.

The Best Appearing Senior Ladies VFW Auxiliary Color Guard: The Firebirds, VFW Post 6782, Michigan.

The Best Appearing Junior Color Guard, and this is a result of open field competition: McAlester High School, who came up here with Department of Oklahoma; McAlester, Oklahoma.

The Best Performing Junior Majorette Drum and Baton Corps: Rockettes Baron Corps, VFW Post 3979, Minnesota.

The Best Appearing Drill Team. The Del-Mac CYO Red Diamond, sponsored by VFW Post 898, Lackawanna, New York.

Best Appearing VFW Auxiliary Marching Unit: State of Lousiana.

The Best Appearing VFW Marching Unit: Department—that has happened certainly on many occasions; they have been recognized for this in the past—the Department of Massachusetts.

[Following the presentation of the parade competition awards, Commander-in-Chief Cameron called on the National Chaplain to give the closing prayer. The Sergeant-at-Arms led the Convention in a salute to the Colors. The convention was recessed at 2:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. the next morning.]

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION, WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 21, 1985

(Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Presiding)

[The second business session of the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was called to order in the Dallas Convention Center at 9:00 a.m. by Commander-in-Chief Cameron.]

National Convention Director **Vater**. Please take your seats. We have added 200 chairs and there is definitely enough chairs today.

[Sergeant-at-Arms Sarver led the Convention in the Salute to the Colors and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. National Chaplain Reverend Frederick W. Christiansen gave the opening prayer from the Ritual.]

Report of Committee on Credentials

(By Chairman Richard Trombla)

Convention Credentials Committee Chairman **Trombla**. Commander-in-Chief: The temporary report of the Credentials Committee as of the closing of business yesterday; delegate strength, 13,035.

Department Commanders, 52.

Past Commanders-in-Chief, 26.

National Officers, 31.

A grand total of 13,144.

Commander-in-Chief, this is the temporary report of the Credentials Committee at this time.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Past Commander-in-Chief **RICHARD ROUDEBUSH**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, my comrades of this great convention here assembled.

For the past five or six years now, I have—I don't remember exactly how many it's been but it has been my privilege to present a presentation to the National Organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This check is from myself as Chairman of the Board, as well as my Veterans Life Insurance Company.

There is no string with this money. It can be used for any purpose you or your Council directs and it is in the amount of $2,500 and it is a real pleasure, my good friend, to present this check for your cause.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief **JOHN STAUM**. Thank you so much, Past Commander-in-Chief Roudebush. I will present this to the Quartermaster General for safekeeping.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BY LAWS, RULES AND PROCEDURE AND RITUAL

(By Chairman Larry Rivers)

Chairman **RIVERS**. Monday afternoon your committee on National By-Laws, Rules and Procedure and Ritual met with Vice Chairman, Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Gallagher and myself.

Most of you, I'm sure, probably have the yellow sheet of proposed amendments to the National By-Laws and have had the opportunity to read them. The proposed amendments were published in the VFW Magazine.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following proposed amendments to the National By-Laws: B-4, B-7, B-8 and B-9.

[Chairman Rivers moved the approval of the Committee's report in recommending the adoption of By-Laws Amendments B-4, B-7, B-8 and B-9. The motion was seconded by Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Gallagher, put to a vote by Commander-in-Chief Cameron. The Chair announced that the motion passed by more than the two-thirds requisite and, accordingly, By-Law Amendments B-4, B-7, B-8 and B-9 were adopted by the Convention.

[Chairman Rivers reported that the Committee recommended rejection of the following proposed amendments to the National By-Laws: B-1, B-2, B-3, B-5, B-6, B-10 and B-11.

[John Ochoa, Commander, Department of North Carolina, asked that By-Law Amendment B-10 be set aside and introduced a motion to approve By-Law Amendment B-10 which would delete Section 718 of the National By-Laws and thereby do away with the Political Action Committee.

[After lengthy discussion, both pro and con, the Chair put the motion to adopt By-Law Amendment B-10 to a vote. Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that the Convention by its vote to defeat the motion had made it loud and clear that the Political Action Committee will continue.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that, there being no further discussion on the Committee report disapproving proposed By-Law Amendments B-1, B-2, B-3, B-5, B-6, B-10 and B-11, the

Report of the Committee was accepted by the Convention, and By-Law Amendments B-1, B-2, B-3, B-5, B-6, B-10 and B-11 were rejected.

[Chairman Rivers reported that the Committee recommended the adoption of Manual of Procedure Amendments M-2 and M-4. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Convention voted to approve the Committee's recommendation to adopt Manual of Procedure Amendments M-2 and M-4.

[Chairman Rivers reported that the Committee recommended the rejection of Manual of Procedure Amendments M-1 and M-3. Upon the request of John Burns, Post 2097, Connecticut, the Chair announced that proposed Manual of Procedure Amendments M-1 and M-3 would be set aside.

[Chairman Rivers reported that the Committee recommended adoption of Resolution R-1, a revision to the VFW Ritual—Chapel Service. On motion duly made and seconded and following the reading of the resolution, the Convention voted to approve the Committee report to adopt Resolution R-1, revising the VFW Ritual—Chapel Service.

[John Burns, Post 2097, Connecticut, introduced a motion to adopt Manual of Procedure Amendment M-1. John O'Neill, Post 6845, Minnesota, seconded the motion. After lengthy discussion, pro and con, the motion to adopt Manual of Procedure Amendment M-1 was defeated.

[There being no further consideration requested for Manual of Procedure Amendment M-3, the Chair announced that the Convention had accepted the report of the Committee to reject M-3.

[Chairman Rivers reported that the Committee recommended the rejection of Resolutions R-2 and R-3 to amend the Ritual. There being no discussion, the Chair announced that the Convention had accepted the Committee report to reject R-2 and R-3.]

INTRODUCTION OF DAVID M. HOWELLS, SR., CHIEF OF POLICE, ALLENTOWN, PA, RECIPIENT OF THE VFW J. EDGAR HOOVER GOLD MEDAL AWARD AND CITATION

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Cammander-in-Chief CAMERON. This convention is honored today to present the VFW J. Edgar Hoover Award for outstanding service in the field of law enforcement to a man who without a doubt is one of America's most well respected law officers.

His list of accomplishments and commendations are extensive, but I would be remiss not to mention that he has been publicly recognized by his peers for courageous and steadfast dedication to professional police excellence.

He is the recipient of numerous awards for heroism and merit, one of which is his community's highest award, the Award of Valor, which was presented to him for extraordinary acts of courage without regard to personal safety while in actual combat with an armed and dangerous adversary.

Our honoree served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War and was also a member of the United States Air Force Reserve.

Among the citizens of his community he is well known as a dedicated man to the preservation of law and justice and for his desire to make his city a safer place and better place to live.

He is now a resident of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and if you were a resident of Allentown, Pennsylvania, you would know that his patriotism is real and that his life has been dedicated to God, Country, Family and total devotion to the Police Department that he heads.

I now ask you to join me in giving a real VFW welcome to our J. Edgar Hoover Award winner, the Chief of Police of Allentown, Pennsylvania, Chief David M. Howells, Sr.

TEXT OF CITATION

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES J. EDGAR HOOVER AWARD, GOLD MEDAL AND CITATION PRESENTED TO DAVID M. HOWELLS, SR., CHIEF OF POLICE, ALLENTOWN, PA

"In recognition of a 27 year law enforcement career that has been characterized by personal bravery, dedication to the preservation of law and justice and determination to provide professional excellence in the field of law enforcement to the citizens of Allentown, Pennsylvania, thereby achieving a solid reputation as a true American Patriot."

Signed by Commander-in-Chief Cameron and Adjutant General Vander Clute.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Also with this award is a check for $1,000 and I know that any chief can use that money.

REMARKS OF CHIEF OF POLICE HOWELLS

Chief HOWELLS. That is what someone once told me, "David Howells was the best Chief of Police money could buy."

Good Morning: Comrade Commander-in-Chief Cameron, I wish to thank you so very much for that extremely kind introduction.

Comrade Commander-in-Chief, National Officers of this great organization, Pennsylvania State Commander Ricky DiLoretto, Past State Commander Ray Mullin, Commander Jack Johnson of my Post 2124 and all Pennsylvania delegates, friends, my family and all fellow delegates to the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Today represents one of the highlights of my professional life.

First let me tell you that it is indeed a high honor and a distinct privilege to stand before you this morning on this very special occasion for me, while you all take time out from a very busy convention schedule to recognize the law enforcement profession with a singular selection for me to receive the very important and prestigious J. Edgar Hoover Award during this the 86th Annual National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

It was in May of 1984 when a member of my Post, number 2124, Frank Moyer, came to my office requesting permission to place my name in consideration for the Pennsylvania VFW Law Enforcement Award. Ultimately, and with some reluctance, I succumbed to Frank's insistence that Post 2124 be permitted to pursue this course of action.

I certainly was not looking for any personal recognition, merely and simply trying to be a good cop, a good family man, husband and father, with a strong belief in God. Work in the church and other community organizations was all the reward I needed, but I must say how deeply thrilled I am to have been selected to receive the 1985 VFW J. Edgar Hoover Award.

The involvement of my Post 2124, they being the catalyst for my receiving the Pennsylvania John Radko VFW Law Enforcement Award, along with the Department of Pennsylvania, I am sure aided greatly in my being named as the recipient of this J. Edgar Hoover Award today.

J. Edgar Hoover has always been recognized as a leader in law enforcement, and he was the genesis of the FBI National Academy, which I am pleased and proud to say I am a graduate of.

Being a graduate of the FBI Academy and being so closely related professionally to the FBI gives the award added thrust. To receive the VFW J. Edgar Hoover Award is the highest recognition which can be bestowed upon an individual in law enforcement. Being a recipient of this fine award I feel is a tremendous honor for four important reasons:

First, because of the great man the award is name for;

Second, because it is presented by the National Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States;

Third, all of the previous recipients of this award have been outstanding Americans, and,

Fourth, I consider this an honor for many others more than for myself.

So I say, fellow delegates and dedicated American Veterans, I come today to also salute all of you. Any association or group that follows the basic priniciples of freedom and equality for all, will enjoy a long life.

The objects of this association are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational;

To preserve and strengthen comradeship among the members;

To assist worthy comrades;

To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans;

To maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;

To foster true patriotism;

To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and,

To preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever.

Yes, we all know that is Article One from the Constitution of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, but let us never forget it. We can take that article apart and discuss each part of it at great length, but time won't allow for that.

I wish to call your attention to the very last word, "Whomsoever," lest we be remiss, we are not only threatened by foreign governments from foreign shores, but we are also threatened from within. We shall not, and we will not, forget those cries from the streets, "Hell no, we won't go,"—"Hell no, we won't go," and many of them didn't, but we did and we will go again and again if necessary to preserve those principles of freedom we cherish.

I'm sick and tired of those who use catchy chants in the streets; those who got more media coverage by burning American flags and draft cards than those heroes who returned from Vietnam.

Fortunately the Vietnam Veterans are finally getting their due recognition.

I firmly believe that this belated recognition is also tied together with our crime rate. We are fortunate that our crime rate is down and, as a result, patriotism and law abidance are up.

I'm sick and tired of politicians who, before voting on veterans' legislation, must first decide if it will have an adverse impact on a particular group or the votes they may lose. Forget the adverse impact, think of the positive impact it will have on the veteran. Think of the positive impact it will have on the family of the veteran.

Yes, let us not forget the families. A tremendous personal sacrifice was also made by our loved ones who stayed behind.

And so, while you have chosen this time to honor the law enforcement profession and myself, in particular, I submit to you that I am proud to be a veteran. I submit to you that the VFW is truly made of dedicated citizens of the greatest country God ever made.

I salute the Veterans of Foreign Wars. To insure the national security through maximum military strength; to speed rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans; to promote Americanism through education to patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live. How great you are. "We honor the dead by helping the living." What greater ideas could be encompassed into an organization?

Every piece of major veteran legislation has been supported or originated by the oldest active veterans organization in the United States, the VFW. We're still fighting for Agent Orange legislation for the Vietnam Veterans and for help for those veterans suffering from radiation and exposure after World War II and many other pieces of benficial legislation. We will also fight to see the POW and the MIA situation rsolved.

Because of the strength in the VFW, this is the 30th consecutive year that the VFW set all time membership records, in excess of two million. Yes, be proud of the VFW; you have every right to be.

I want to thank everyone involved in my receiving this award, the National Council of Administration of the VFW for their unanimous vote in selecting me; also Commander-in-Chief Cameron and Post 2124 Commander Jack Johnson; Department of Pennsylvania Commander Ricky DiLoretto and Past Commander Ray Mullin.

It it totally and completely impossible for me to acknowledge everyone who has touched my life and is responsible in varying degrees for my being here today.

Personally, I want to acknowledge my mother and father, God rest their souls, who gave me the proper upbringing; my brother Howard, who is an All-American Commander of the Department of Kentucky, 1982-83, and who was always there when I needed him; his wife, Ann; my wonderful wife, Sherry, who has supported me through many trials and tribulations and thousands of hours away from home for meetings and work; my son, David, and daughters, Sandy, Sher and Sue, who have always been responsible citizens in their own right.

Professionally, it is impossible to name one person without naming another. I owe my professional development to all of my colleagues in the law enforcement profession; college professors;

schoolteachers; members of the clergy; friends and dedicated politicians. No man attains anything solely on his own efforts.

One thing that has bothered me here during this convention was when someone would refer to me as a "V.I.P." Nope, I'm still just Davey Howells from Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Lastly, and most importantly, I thank God for everything that He has done for me in my life. I have been blessed far more than I am worthy of, and for me to be able to recognize His involvement with my daily life, is indeed satisfying in itself. To recognize Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior is a small price to pay for all of the benefits I have received in my life. May God forever give me the strength to continue to live my life in a fashion that will bring credit unto the entire law enforcement community.

Once again, before closing, please allow me to tell you how extremely pleased, proud and privileged I am by your selection of me to receive this award. Upon acceptance be assured that I do so in behalf of all the police officers in Allentown, each of whom are dedicated public servants.

Further, I want to share this award with all the police officers of the United States and with each of you. Also, I accept this award in the name of all the citizens of Allentown, including Mayor Joseph S. Daddona and all the members of our city government who I know are with me today in their thoughts.

Now I have something to present to our Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron. Commander, my mayor, who is a Navy veteran and a strong supporter for police officers, wants me to present this key to the City of Alentown to you—you are always welcome. You always will have an open door ther when you come to visit us.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron called upon Adjutant General Vander Clute for an announcement.]

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. You might be interested to know that a distinguished gentleman who was unable to make it to this convention because of illness, Past Comander-in-Chief Jimmy Van Zandt, is in improved health back in Washington at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

You all know he suffered a relapse in his battle with the dreaded disease and General Coates, who is also in the hospital by the way, Past Surgeon General from Pennsylvania, called this morning and told me that he had spoken personally with the Surgeon General and Jimmy is much improved and will be soon be home.

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF VFW DISTINGUISHED EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD TO JIM LORANCE OF THE TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Comander-in-Chief CAMERON. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort our distinguished guest from the Department of Texas, Jim Lorance.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes the need to assist disabled veterans in every way possible.

One of the most pressing needs facing those men and women who have been injured in service to our country, many of them wounded while defending our beloved United States is a four letter word, w-o-r-k, and that is what the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program is all about, helping disabled veterans become productive members of our society to contribute as civilians the same dedication they demonstrated as members of the Armed Forces.

It is an honor to introduce to you Mr. Jim Lorance of the Texas Employment Commission for presentation of the VFW Distinguished Employment Service Award, for his outstanding work with the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program as coordinator.

Mr. Lorrance, would you please come forward.

REMARKS OF JIM LORANCE

JIM LORANCE. Thank you Commander Cameron. I can't begin to express my appreciation to the members of the VFW. I can't begin to express my appreciation for receiving this award.

Several months ago when Mr. Jim Cornett, Veterans Employment Training Service, approached me about entering my name in recognition for this award, I told him at that time that I really didn't think it was possible to place an individual award for the work that he had done as an agency in the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program because a lot of folks were involved in providing the service to these veterans.

So at this time I would like to take just a moment to thank some of these people that played a part in providing this service.

First and foremost I would like to thank Bill Hazelwood, Jim Cornett and the staff of the Veterans Employment Training Service for working with the Texas Employment Commission implementing the placement program, in particular the Emergency Veteran Job Training Program.

Also recognition is due to the Veterans Administration in this state for working with us on this program, but I would like most importantly and I think I can give credit to our individuals in each of our TDC Local Offices, who actually sit and work with individual veterans, contacting individual employers in placing over twenty-eight hundred veterans to the American Veterans Job Training Program.

I just thought that we needed to mention that because I think these folks had much more to do in me receiving this award than I did as an individual.

Again, I thank you. It is a great honor and I pledge to you that I will continue to work in service to our veterans, and my agency, the Texas Employment Agency, will certainly continue also.

REPORT OF THE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

(By Chairman Past Commander-in-Chief John Stang)

Chairman **STANG**. Commander-in-Chief Comrade, this report will be brief. We have one resolution that was considered. According to the rules we are supposed to report only favorable actions first.

There was only one resolution, and it was not favorably considered by the Committee for several reasons. We, therefore, recommend rejection of Resolution number PAC 1, titled VFW and VFW-PAC.

[There being no discussion on the report, Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that the PAC Committee Report was approved by the Convention and Resolution PAC-1 was rejected.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

(By Chairman Ray Soden, Past Commander-in-Chief)

Chairman **SODEN**. Commander-in-Chief, thank you very much. My good Comrades, I will also as the rules state present those resolutions that were approved in our Committee, but before I do, I want to thank you, Commander-in-Chief, for allowing me to serve in this capacity and to thank my Vice Chairman and all of the members of the Committee.

[Chairman Soden announced that the Committee approved 6 resolutions and reported on each as follows:]

Resolution 105: Loyalty Day approved as amended.

Resolution 106: International People-To-People Observance. Approved as amended.

Resolution 108: Support and Promote the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program approved.

Resolution 109: Cooperation with National and State organizations to promote youth, safety and patriotic Programs approved.

Resolution 116: Restore Memorial Day to May 30. Approved as amended.

Resolution 117: Amend the Federal Flag Code. Approved as amended.

Chairman Soden read the Resolved Clause: "Be it resolved by the VFW 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the U.S. Congress to amend the Federal vote so as to limit the flying of flags on the same halyard with that of the flag of the United States to flags of states, cities, and other municipal bodies, and the MIA-POW flag, and specifically prohibit the flying of any other flag on the same halyard with that of the United States flag."

Chairman Soden reported that the Committee recommended the rejection of the following resolutions:

Resolutions 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115.

Chairman Soden moved the adoption of the Committee's Report. The motion was seconded by Adjutant General Vander Clute and adopted by the Convention.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron called on J.A. Cheatham, Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Internal Organization, to report on Resolution 243.]

Finance and Internal Organization Committee Chairman **CHEATHAM**. Resolution, number 243, entitled Freedom of Information and Privacy Resolution was submitted to our Committee.

Our Committee met for over an hour on this particular resolution. We listened to the Judge Advocate of the Department of Pennsylvania. The resolution came from the Department of Pennsylvania and we listened to the Judge Advocate of Pennsylvania and discussion by members of the Committee and the Judge Advocate General, who we asked to appear before the Committee. The Judge Advocate of Pennsylvania and the Judge Advocate General were questioned at length by the Committee, and the questioning and debate lasted well over an hour.

Following this, when the discussion was over, the Committee voted to reject the resolution. It was the consensus of an overwhelming majority of the Committee that the resolution was inappropriate and not in the best interest of the VFW.

[There being no discussion the chair ruled that the Report of the Committee to reject Resolution 243 was adopted by the Convention.]

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Committee who worked for three and a half hours, seriously considering over forty-eight resolutions.

I thank you, Comrades, and hope you go home satisfied.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. At this point, I want to say thank you to Al. He stepped in and did a beautiful job. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF HON. LEWIS TAMBS, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO COSTA RICA

(By Commander-in-Chief Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. We are indeed this morning privileged to have our outstanding Ambassador from Costa Rica.

Central America is vital to the United States, both commercially and strategically. The region controls the Panama Canal, our lifeline. It is so close to our own borders that anything that happens in Central America has an immediate impact on our own country.

Here to talk to us today is Lewis Tambs, the United States Ambassador to Costa Rica.

Ambassador Tambs, a historian, is highly qualified for his post. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and received his master's and doctor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Before teaching he lived in Venezuela and traveled exclusively in Latin America. He has taught at Creighton University and Arizona State University at Tempe and was Director of the Center of Latin American Cities as well as serving as a consultant for the National Security Council.

He has written extensively on Latin American affairs and Soviet and East European Economics.

In 1983 he was appointed to Colombia. He brings to his new post in Costa Rica a new lifetime of expertise in Latin American affairs.

It is an honor to present Ambassador Lewis A. Tambs.

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR TAMBS

Ambassador TAMBS. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief Cameron.

Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow Veterans:

At this very moment Billy Ray and I make an invitation to you to help provide for the freedom of Central America by supporting the Arms Resolution so that we are not betrayed by others who are providing the same type of material, the same tyrants that you and I fought against in Okinawa and Omaha Beach and Pusan, Pork Chop Hill and at Lang Vei.

Central America has seemed far away, but it is closer to us here in Dallas than we are to New York City or San Francisco.

President Reagan has arisen to meet this challenge of a Red wave rolling toward us from the south.

The liberation of Granada and stabilization of El Salvador are obvious necessities. Nevertheless the Commander knows how one of the members of the Sandinistas Junta in Nicaragua continues to proclaim revolutions on our frontiers and his comrades, Military

Marxists, continue to export weapons to diversionary terrorists and in some cases even narcotics to the nations in Central America and also to the United States for he, himself, has long been a Communist.

In July 1984 one of his agents in Puerto Rico was photographed by an undercover DPA loading cocaine in Nicaragua for dispatching to the United States.

This is one of the challenges and dangers we face because not only are narcotics killing our children and our future but in addition, in many nations like Colombia, the Communists are building a narcotics business and are using these illegally to purchase weapons and to get training to overthrow friendly democratic nations in the Latin American countries.

Now in the Caribbean and Central America, President Reagan has responded to the intervention of the Soviet Union in Cuba and Nicaragua and the President has developed a five-point program, five D's to try to salvage the situation.

Defense; Democracy; Development; Demilitarization; and Department of Foreign Forces, and we hope to achieve this through dialogue.

When we talk about the defense, we are talking about the defense of the United States as well as the friendly powers.

The Soviets, in my own personal view, have three strategic plans that they have succeeded in part in obtaining. First of all, they have sought the departure of the chief of the 70 Circle A Ware of the Peoples Republic of China and for the greater part would occur in Southeast Asia as part of that Soviet plan.

Secondly, the Soviets and their satellites are seeking to deny the production of allied nations of Japan, Western Europe, Canada, United States, Latin America from access to oil and petroleum to stragetic members, and this means their activities in the Middle East and South Africa are, in effect, an effort to bring us to our knees by denying the west the oil we have to have to survive and maintain our standard of living.

Thirdly, they have made a concerted and, to date, partially successful effort to isolate the United States from its friends and allies in the Caribbean and Latin America.

I learned today that the VFW was founded some 86 years ago after the Spanish American War. Now you should understand that since the Spanish American War, that is 1898, United States has not been obliged to divert men or resources or military power to the south.

The ability of the United States to check war across the Atlantic to Europe and the Middle East and westward across the Pacific in effect is based upon a cooperative Caribbean and a friendly South America.

What we have going on the Caribbean and Central America today is a tactic for subversion of the revolutions on what could be termed the soft belly of the United States, the south.

If we have to divert and resources to the south, that means we are going to be weak some place else.

In addition we face the possibility of a refugee problem. I come from serving the President in Costa Rica, which has a population of some two and a half million people, a free, open democratic people and an enjoyed society, and already they have between one hundred and fifty thousand and two hundred fifty thousand refugees who have fled from El Salvador, and above all, Nicaragua. So consequently ten percent of the population in today's Costa Rica are people that arrived seeking freedom, seeking safety.

We have a situation whereby there are some twenty-five million people in Central America, another seventy-five or seventy-eight million people in Mexico. They total roughly one hundred million. You are probably well aware that when the Communists take over, ten percent of the population, at least ten percent, will flee.

You who served in the European theater in World War II will recall the mass stream of refugees who fled from Eastern Europe.

You who served in the Korean War will recall the panic of thousands who ran southward seeking refuge from the P-34's.

You who served in Indochina are only too well aware of the boat people and foot people who inundated not only South Vietnam but in addition, other nations like Taiwan and Malaysia.

Today you can see in Pakistan that they are receiving five and seven million Afghanian refugees and Pakistans can't feed them and can't absorb them.

United States faces a similar situation and I think we should be honest in that we have traditionally and rightfully so been the home for people seeking freedom and a better way of life.

All of us in this room came from families which were from Europe or Africa or the Orient. We are basically a nation of refugees, and even the Indians, so-called Americans, came from some place else. They just got here before the rest of us.

So I don't want to suggest the United States is against refugees; nevertheless, we have twenty-five million in Central America and seventy-five million which total of a hundred million, including Mexico, and if ten percent begin to move, I assure you that they are not going south of Panama. They are going to come north and the question really is, can we absorb some ten million people socially and economically and realistically in a short period of time.

We have a situation whereby no matter what we do, if Ayatollah Khomeini and the Military Marxists continue to support the revolution and because we have innocents flooding northward, or if we seal off more, they are going to be left there at the start; if we admit them we are going to have unsettling, unstabilized growing economic social problems.

Now, even if we decide to seal them off, that is something you should be aware of; there are only three reserve forces which we can turn to try and control the some eighteen hundred or two thousand miles of United States southern frontier.

First of al we could pull people out of NATO and in all probability we could call the United States military forces from NATO which would trigger the finalization of the Soviet nation in Western Europe.

If we use the employment force which means that if prices of exports in the Middle East go up then the price goes up in Western Pacific and we can't afford that.

The other manpower move we have is the National Guard and the National Guard are trained and ready, which you are probably well aware, but the general administration is reluctant to call them because it means international participation.

Therefore, we talk about defense and we are not only talking about the democratic nations in Latin America but also talking about the defense in the United States.

The second point of the President's program which I am sure you are aware of is the bipartisan, local, so-called Jackson Plan; Democracy.

United States is convinced that a democratic nation in general does not attack its natives.

You have seen the success in which democracy is moving forward in El Salvador and Honduras getting ready for a free open election, presidential campaign.

Even Guatemala is moving towards the constitutional government and, God willing, they will have elections in November.

Costa Rica, of course, has been, for well over a century, a free, open, democratic, demilitarized nation, and in Costa Rica we are now right in the middle of a presidential compaign.

Of course, that leaves Nicaragua. We are now aware at the elections last November, Nicaragua were the ones which the government did not allow the opposition party the ability to campaign. The candidates were attacked and harassed and beaten up and in spite of government intimidation, Ortega was only able to get about sixty percent of the vote.

I think it's ironic that here in the United States, in a free open democratic election, the President received almost the same percentage.

So, therefore, the elections were a fraud. And I assure you that this was one of the numerous progesses the Sandinistas had made, not only to the OAS but above and more importantly the Nicaraguan people.

In July 1979 prior to the taking of power in Nicaragua the Sandinistas promised three things.

First, organization with the United States in writing and also to the Nicaraguan people they promised a free, open election.

They violated those.

They promised respect for human lives.

And they continued to violate that.

They also promised an independent judiciary system and we are still waiting for that.

What we have in Nicaragua is a police state. The Church—the Catholic Church is under attack. The free labor movement is being systematically destroyed.

The Jewish Community is being persecuted.

We have almost a repetition of not only communism but Nazism. The government encourages children to turn in their parents if they talk against the government and children have been taken away from their famiies to be properly indoctrinated and spend months and get large doses of the indoctrination.

They have found the subject of genocide in the population and they have uprooted them from their traditional villages and moved to relocation camps. Like you who served in European Theaters. And would have called them concentration camps.

We also have the secret police, DSGE, which is always present, and in addition on every block there are Communists, the same as in Cuba, which are there not to defend the revolution; they are there to suppress any dissent from what they call the legitimate place.

Sandinistas also use the old technique of controlling the rations of the people. If you do not turn out for a rally, if you do not vote right, you don't get a ration. This is in effect a repetition of the Fascist Nazis and this is a Gestapo.

They claim that the Nicaraguan people are not for Samosa and that is why they don't have open elections.

I can recall some years ago people who supported Samosa and they said, "We will leave Samosa in Nicaragua." But the people wouldn't do it. Friends of a colleague of mine on the left say, "You've got to help us. Nicaraguan people aren't right for democracy."

Well, if not now, when?

There is a democratic movement in and outside of Nicaragua. It's called the democratic assistance. It goes by two names. One is, the one you know, FDN, and this movement is composed of members of various political parties, liberals, conservative, social democrats, and social Christians; and the free labor movement; Christians and Jews, and they have tried to dialogue and negotiate with the Sandinista military movement and they have asked for national reconciliation to be mediated by the Roman Catholic Church.

Twice in the last few months they have made this request. In the coronation the 1st of March, and once again in El Salvador on the 12th of June, the Communist military government in Nicaragua which insists that the President of El Salvador negotiate with the Communist insurgents refused to dialogue with his own people and achieve peace and move toward—move together toward a free democracy.

So point two of the President's plan is Democracy.

The third point of the President's plan is committed to the development of means to overcome material problems. We are well aware that living conditions in many Central America states are wretched.

There are social economic problems. These were not created by the government. They were created over a period of centuries by regimes which were self-serving. Consequently through the Jackson Plan, Bipartisan Jackson Plan, we are attempting, utilizing the private sector, to regenerate a higher productivity so that we can deliver.

United States included Nicargua in this. Between July 1979 and between December 1980 and March of 1981 United States donated and gave a hundred eighteen million dollars to the Nicaraguan government.

In addition we fed them corn and wheat and you American farmers in the VFW know about that.

The real change in U.S. Policy for Nicaragua came in December 1980 when President Carter, who certainly never wanted the military Marxist regime in Nicaragua, began to realize they were not social democrats.

Consequently President Carter also endorsed Democracy and Development.

We would also like to see the resurrection of Central American Common Market.

Since the establishment of a Marxist regime in Nicaragua is has come apart.

At the same time we are finding it increasingly difficult to raise the standard of living. We have insurgents in El Salvador, for instance, practicing economic warfare against the people in the government of El Salvador by continual attacks of taxes, riches, and election powers.

We see a situation whereby we can build something today and it's destroyed tomorrow which not only takes jobs away from people but means they will continue to have somewhat less than an acceptable standard of living.

In addition the continued commitment of the Communists in Nicaragua to support revolution is provoking a plight which means that new productive facilities in Central America cause eliminations in Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador.

The fourth point of the President in demilitarization. The United States does not seek a militarized Central America. It does not seek, for instance, militarized Costa Rica. Costa Rica, since its constitution in 1948, has been a nation basically defenseless. They have no Army. All they have is a police. United States wishes to demilitarize the regime and we are talking basically about Nicaragua.

The Sandinista Army—that should catch you because this is not a national Army—this is a party Army—it is run by the Sandinistas and by the Communist party people who do the revolutions. It is the largest military force in Central America and basically consists of three forces: Army of intimidation and the insurgency Army, and speak-nots special forces trained by the Soviets Army is by Latin American and Central American standards overwhelming. They have some sixty thousand regulars; in addition sixty thousand are militia.

They have been provided free by the Soviets with the following things:

They have some one hundred and ten T-54 and T-55 tanks and have about twenty T-70's and they have over two hundred eighty APC's and over a hundred SP heavy artillery and some thirty attack helicopters including the big 24, the Honda, one of the most effective in the world. That is their Army of intimidation.

Costa Rica, which is being threatened and has had guards killed by the Sandinistas, has a total force of four hundred thousand five hundred civil guardsmen and four thousand five hundred civil guardsmen and thirty-five hundred real guards, real guards.

We have tried to train them. At the request of the Costa Rican government so far we have trained some three hundred fifty and are training an additional four hundred and these people are being trained basically border patrol and possibly rescue.

We have on army of intimidation of a hundred twenty thousand in Nicaragua and a counter-insurgency Army called the Bleak.

These people are being launched against freedom fighters and they are in a sense being used up. The people who were drafted into the common surgency Army are generally college students educated under the old regime who have some concept of Judeo tradition and they have one week's training and are thrown into battle and wasted. It is an effort, as far as I can see, to destroy a generation of young people.

We also have a situation whereby freedom fighters are given more training than the Common Surgency Army.

The FDM for instance. The FDM was inducted in March 1984 for all of seven thousand for over a year, which, you know, the U.S.A. was forthcoming and the group grew to seventeen thousand; seventeen thousand without boots, uniforms and even weapons, but they came because they love their country.

The Nicaraguans want to see their country be good.

The United States, of course is also aware that the Sandinistas trained sixty speak-nots, Russians working for special forces, and they are excellent Soviet trainers that are in Nicaragua and sixty groups could literally bring through sabotage, carnage, assassination, practically any nation to its knees in 24 hours.

So, therefore, we wish to demilitarize. We do not want these people to spend their money for weapons. We want them to spend it for food and productivity.

The fifth point of the administration program is a Dparture of Foreign Forces.

We are talking about the eight to ten thousand Cubans in Nicaragua and we are talking about the Soviet Speak-nots. We are talking about the Bulgarians and East Germans who trained secret police in Nicaragua and we are talking about the PLO. Most of the police in Nicaragua are PLO, and we are talking about members of Colombia and the Communist group, M-19, training there. We are talking about the mass terrorists and liberals, Mr. Qaddafi who was very generous because he hates the United States.

You should be aware of something; if you have any doubt about Sandinista you should listen to their hymn. The second stanza of the Sandinista hymn begins—it declares that the United States is the enemy of humanity. "The enemy." You are the enemy of humanity according to that. If that doen't tell you something there is not much I can do for you.

United States of course is talking about involving forces, including U.S. Forces, in the area; specifically some one thousand that we have in Honduras. And number goes up and we have numerous others but we really don't want them there.

Once again you will find that as our soft open underbelly is exposed. you may have to perform. God willing we won't.

We hope to achieve these five points through dialogue. The President has endorsed the corner posts. We have tried to talk to the Sandinistas at various times. But we failed.

We are dealing with true believers, fanatics, saying Communists and Vietcong. Nevertheless, we are still willing to try.

Meanwhile the Sandinistas are waging not only a war against the people of Nicaragua but waging against the United States a cultural war because in part this war would be more to us in Washington and the various capitals of the United States.

There are groups here like the Six Pennies which are virtually an organized Sandinista government and it is up to you, your country, you can do something about it.

Up to now one of our greates allies in trying to contain this threat has been the head of the Sandinistas. He has been very, very helpful to us in taking trips to Moscow where he gets his orders and weapons and is making a series of very frank, from his point of view, statements, honest statement.

You can help because we cannot let happen again where we win an appeal and lose on TV. We cannot.

We do not want to see a replication of victory on the Mekong River and defeat on the Potomac River.

We are supporting twenty-million dollars of humanitarian freedom fighters, so-called—I don't like to use the word "Contras" but what it means in Marxist vocabulary is counter-revolutionaries.

The real war we have are freedom fighters, armed democratic resisters.

These people are fighting for their own country.

They want a true national liberation and, God willing, if they are able to bring to Nicaragua democracy and demilitarization and mold the country on that and be able to say Costa Rica is free and open, we will have a model for success, which you are probably aware that as of today there are armed nations resistant forces in some seven countries fighting against local community terrorism, supported by Moscow and Havana.

These seven countries are Nicaragua, Ethiopia, South Yemen, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. We have an opportunity here and the basic fact is if people do not fight for themselves we can't do it for them, but if they are willing, it is my personal opinion, and a wish, we should help them defend their own country against foreign intervention by the Soviets and Cubans and also, hopefully, they will fight to defend us.

So, United States policy is defense of our friends in the United States and encourage them with information of democracy and development, demilitarization and departure of foreign forces; and meanwhile, Ladies and Gentlemen, brave men of the Nicaraguan democratic resistance have fought and are now fighting the same type tyranny which you overcame at Okinawa and Omaha Beach, Pusan and Pork Chop Hill and Lang Vei.

These great men are fighting not only for freedom and dignity of Nicaragua but also for our liberties.

It is a war which must be won.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY ADJUTANT GENERAL VANDER CLUTE

Adjutant General **VANDER CLUTE**. The Commander-in-Chief has asked me to read two messages. The first one is addressed to him.

"Dear Commander-in-Chief Cameron:

"Please accept and pass on to my fellow comrades and the members of the Ladies Auxiliary my personal best wishes for a successful and enjoyable 86th National Convention in Dallas.

"Since its inception, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have been out front. You were out front in uniform fighting America's Wars and remain at the front today fighting for strong foreign policy and national defense, which is necessary for the preservation of peace and freedom.

"However, the VFW stands for more than that. Your myriad of programs have had a significant impact on making America a better place to live—not just for veterans, but for all citizens.

"The decisions made by the VFW in Dallas are important, as they will set the direction for future actions. I look forward to learning of your proceedings and discussing areas of mutual interest with your leaders.

"Sincerely, George Bush, Vice President of the United States."

The second letter comes from the White House.

"I am honored to send my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as you gather for your 86th National Convention in Dallas. It is a great source of pleasure to me that General John W. Vessey, Jr. is representing me before your distinguished meeting. Jack exemplifies the very finest attributes of the American veteran.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars has long been a bulwark of support for this Republic and for the magnificent ideals on which it was founded. You can take great pride in the exemplary service that you have rendered to this nation both in the military and as private citizen members of the VFW.

"In upholding your organization's traditions you work as well for the good of your fellow veterans and for the preservation of the principle of peace through strength that is so vital to the continuance of our way of life.

"Now, as we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the ending of World War II, the most horrible of human conflict in history, it is especially appropriate to reflect on all that we owe to those who have borne the burden of military service to keep America proud, strong and free.

"Americans must always remember and honor our hallowed war dead and pay tribute to all veterans who have given of themselves for the good of their fellow countrymen. You have my solemn pledge that this Administration will continue to do everything in its power to see that our nation's veterans are accorded all that they so justly deserve.

"I want you to know how very grateful I am for your continued support for the vigilant defense that we need to maintain our sacred liberties. On behalf of all citizens of this great Republic, thank you and God Bless all of you."

This was signed by Ronald Reagan.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

(By Chairman H.R. Rainwater, Past Commander-in-Chief)

Chairman **RAINWATER**. Commander-in-Chief, Comrades, the General Resolutions Committee consisting of more than one hundred forty members, have met with Vice Chairman, Al DeStefano, of Florida, and we acted on some eighteen resolutions, and I will read first those resolutions which the Committee recommended adoption, then I will read those that we recommend rejection.

The first resolution, 301, urging re-introduction of legislation to remedy inequity in the security system.

Some of you recognize this as the old Notch Law, Catch 22, that denies about a hundred dollars a month to those who were born 1917 to 1921, and I feel in that—I am really favorable to this. So we did—it was talked about whether or not we should get into it and they decided that the overwhelming number of World War Veterans fit in the category, and therefore, the Committee moves for adoption of 301.

302, United States Post Master General designation of POW-MIA postage stamps speaks for itself, and it was moved by the Committee for adoption.

303: Vote confidence for the Commander-in-Chief in his stand for the support of President Reagan's Bitburg and Belsen-Bergen Germany visits in May of 1985. The Committee moved for support of the Commander-in-Chief for his stand by adoption of Resolution 303.

Resolution 304 was slightly amended. As you look at it, it calls for the dismissal from federal service of the former Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and as you know the man is gone.

So, we amended it to read—the resolved portion—

> *Be it resolved* by the 86th National Convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that with the departure of David Stockman from the Office of Management and Budget, veterans rights are enhanced, and it is the hope of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that he never again be permitted to occupy a position within the government of this nation that will affect veterans entitlements.

Resolution 305: Provide a National Memorial to Korean Veterans.

This was combined with Resolution 313 of a similar content, and we adopted 305 for the erection of a National Memorial for Korean Veterans.

308: Tighten Laws against Illegal Drugs. We adopted that without much discussion because of the fact that the Committee all seemed to be of the mind that is what was needed.

Resolution 310: Adopted by the Committee, which opposed the establishment of Indian Bingo Parlors outside of reservations.

311: Refrain from patronizing performances or purchasing publications of Jane Fonda.

I think that speaks for itself. We moved for the adoption.

I really should sit down on Resolution 314. Oppose lawsuit filed by Mohammed Ali against the government for the Boxing Association in its fifty million dollar damage suit. The Committee adopted the resolution.

315: Oppose Monument Commemorating Anti-war Efforts of Peace Activists during the Vietnam era. It was adopted by the Committee.

Resolution number 317: Support House Bill 2109. I will read the resolved portion.

> *Be it resolved*, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that urge the Congress of the United States to support House Bill 2109, which will require the payment of approved claims from the funds of the government of South Vietnam now impounded in banks in the United States.

This is one that I am not sure you have, 319 from the Department of Illinois, dealing with our missing kids. That was supposed to have been brought in, and apparently that was misplaced, and we got it late and inserted it. I will read the resolved portion.

> *Be it resolved*, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request through our National Organization, State, District and Post Levels, that the programs of flagging missing children's birth certificates be adopted by court, county clerks, and law enforcement agencies of missing children sixteen years of age or younger.
>
> *Be it further resolved*, that state legislation is required to accomplish this, that we call all states to adopt legislation.

It is simply whatever law enforcement agency is involved in the reporting of a missing child or children that they will flag a child's birth certificate at the county recorder's office.

Should someone ever try to get that birth certificate it will be red flagged to those and they will question it.

Those resolutions which I moved for support by the committee, were adopted by the committee, those resolutions that I have read.

[By motion duly made and seconded, the Convention voted to adopt the resolutions reported favorably by the Committee.]

Chairman RAINWATER. The following resolutions were recommended by the Committee for rejection.

Resolution 306: Amendment to the Social Security Act. We rejected that in favor of 301.

Resolution 307: Support House Resolution 1626, Asbestos Worker Recovery Act. The Committee moved to reject that resolution.

309: Urge Congress to publicly list their spending priorities.

The committee felt that this might place the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the tailend of priorities, and we didn't want to be part of that so we moved for rejection.

312: Because of the need for social security it was moved to reject it.

Resolution 313: Korean War Memorial Building was rejected in favor of 305, which was adopted.

316: The Asbestos Workers Recovery Act, similarly moved for rejection.

318 Resolution: Support for the Farm Moratorium. The Committee felt that while we have farmers in this audience, we also have lawyers, and we have doctors, and we have auto mechanics, and we felt we ought to concentrate our efforts—while we are in sympathy with the farmers' plight, that we should recognize that the farmers group in my home state of California, they are mostly controlled by agri-business as opposed to being controlled by veterans. So we voted to reject 318.

[Following a request that Resolution 318 be set aside, a delegate from Post 5888, California, moved the adoption of Resolution 318. The motion was seconded by Past Commander-in-Chief Sandstrom.

[During a lengthy discussion, pro and con, and following the introduction of an amended Resolution and more discussion, the Convention voted to reject the resolution as amended, and thereupon the Chair called for a vote on the adoption of Resolution 318. The motion was defeated and the Chair ruled that Resolution 318 was rejected.

[There being no further discussion on the Committee's report recommending rejection of Resolutions 306, 307, 309, 312, 316, the Chair announced that the Convention had approved their rejection.]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS OF BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST

(By Adjutant General Vander Clute)

BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY WINNERS:

Dallas, Texas; Public promotion of poppy sales; window booths, parade or poster displays, sales promotion, etc. First place, Johnson—Phelps Post and Auxiliary 5220, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Second place, Casey Post and Auxiliary 5762, Casey, Illinois

Third place, Fred C. O'Malley Post and Auxiliary 6190, Farmer City, Illinois.

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational display, wreaths or memorial tablets or plaques and patriotic or devotional themes.

First place, David Delisle Post and Auxiliary 1008, Pontiac, Michigan.

Second place, Fredrick H. Kocher Post and Auxiliary 4183, Scotts Air Force Base, Illinois.

Third place, Berwyn Post and Auxiliary 2378, Berwyn, Illinois.

Category 3: Artistic or decorative use of poppies. Post home display, table center pieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.

First place, Forest Lake Post and Auxiliary 4210, Forest Lake, Minnesota.

Second place, John McDonogh Post and Auxiliary 3121, Gretna, Louisiana.

Third place, Audie L. Murphy Memorial Post and Auxiliary 1837, Dallas, Texas.

Special awards to George Curry Post and Auxiliary 3224, T or C, New Mexico, and Franklin County Post and Auxiliary 4075, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Honorable mention category:

Freeman Sinclair Post and Auxiliary 10726, Parker Dam, Arizona; Kraus-Hartig Post and Auxiliary 6587, Spring Lake Park, Minnesota.

Category 2: West Covina Post and Auxiliary 8620, West Covina, California, and Holiday Post and Auxiliary 10167, Holiday, Florida.

Category 3: Robert R. Tuck Post and Auxiliary 912, Baytown, Texas, and Fraas-Fain Post and Auxiliary 1000, Independence, Missouri.

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. Thank you, Howard.

I want to ask everybody to please stay for business at this time, and I will call on Bob Currieo, the National Security and Foreign Affairs Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(By Chairman James R. Currieo, Past Commander-in-Chief)

Chairman **CURRIEO**. Commander-in-Chief, Comrades, good morning. The Committee thanks you for staying awake for the resolutions from the Committee of National Security and Foreign Affairs, and before I give you the Committee's report on those adopted or those adopted as amended by the Committee, I would like to thank the Vice Chairmen of our Committee, and by the way, the Committee met Monday afternoon, as well as yesterday morning, to complete our work on these important resolutions.

We had some more than a hundred resolutions to consider. The Co-Vice Chairmen of the Committee, Al Feher, and John P. Flynn, and I would like them and all the members of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee to please stand so that this convention can recognize you and thank you for your work.

We have more than one hundred resolutions to consider, and many were identical in nature, somewhat similar nature, and we made some amendments to try to consolidate the thought of many resolutions so we would not have several resolutions on one subject before you in the convention.

I will read the number and title of the resolution, and whether or not it was adopted, or adopted as amended.

Following my report, of course, we will see if you wish to have any of those resolutions set aside or just discussed. You may do this if you wish, and also if you wish to have the amendments read, please wait until we finish, and we will read what you desire, but in the interest of time we will continue on.

Resolutions, National Security and Foreign Affairs.

Resolution 401: The VFW's enduring commitment to American defense privacy, adopted.

Resolution 403: National Strategy of Peace through strength, adopted.

Resolution 404: American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, a non-negotiable matter of honor, adopted as amended.

Resolution 405: VFW designates the red ribbon for concern for POW-MIA's, adopted.

Resolution 408: Strategic defense, adopted.

Resolution 409: Halt the erosion of alliance strength, adopted.

410: Priority attention to Philippine crisis, adopted.

411: Continue to halt shocking waste in Pentagon spare part procurement, adopted as amended.

412: Modernization of chemical weapons overdue, adopted.

413: Halt the hemorrhage of technology, adopted.

414: Arms control violations, adopted.

416: Strenthen the conventional defense of Western Europe, adopted.

418: Changing the Constitution, adopted.

420: Support for the Republic of China on Taiwan, adopted.

421: Absentee ballot reform, adopted as amended.

422: Preserve the U.S. Coast Guard, adopted.

423: No women in combat, adopted.

425: Return to a fair and loophole free military draft as soon as practicable and desirable, adopted.

426: Selective Service registration, adopted.

427: Refugees and illegal aliens in the United States, adopted as amended.

428: Calls for supporting the reorganization of the Joint Chiefs, providing them with a stronger voice in military matters, adopted.

429: Keep up the pressure on Communist Cuba, adopted.

430: Aid the Afghan Freedom Fighters and Refugees, adopted.

432: Non-stop VFW Support for the CIA and FBI, adopted.

433: The UN, The Free Ride, adopted.

434: The VFW, Anti-Communist Pro-American, and Proud of It, adopted.

435: Defeat Terrorism, adopted.

436: The Panama Canal, adopted.

437: Revitalize United States Civil Defense, adopted.

444: Attack on American citizens, adopted.

445: Aiding the enemy, adopted as amended.

454: Opposed Genocide Treaty, adopted.

456: Support of Universal government service, adopted.

459: United States supports the Republic of Korea, adopted.

461: Caution in relations with the Soviet Union and The People's Republic of China, adopted.

462: Sale of military equipment to the Republic of China, adopted.

463: High technology transferred to North Korea, adopted.

464: Continue the POW-MIA subcommittee on the National Security Committee, adopted.

465: Pay and incentives for reserve forces health care professionals, adopted.

466: Support National Guard and Reserves, adopted.

467: The United States military employment, a calling not a job, adopted.

469: Retaliation to the terrorist, adopted as amended.

473: Death penalty for spying, adopted.

474: Making lists of graduating seniors available to Armed Forces Recruiters, adopted.

475: Medal and Ribbon, for all POW-MIA's, adopted.

477: Military retirement pay, adopted.

478: Appropriations to International Lending Agencies, adopted.

480: Petitioned Defense Department to provide AFEM ribbons for Korean service, adopted.

481: Nuclear freeze, no; peace through strength, yes, adopted as amended.

493: Adopt educational measures in addition to military preparedness, adopted as amended.

498: Entitled Support for Comprehensive Improvements in Our Counterintelligence, adopted.

499: Is an all encompassing resolution which we hope to bring together the thoughts and ideas of several resolutions dealing with Central America and this 499 is bipartisan support needed now for Central America, the Caribbean and South America, adopted.

500: Appropriation of Armed Forces retired pay, adopted.

This concludes the resolutions. This committee recommends for adoption or adoption as amended.

[At the request of delegates, the following resolutions were set aside: 401, 404, 410, 413, 415, 427, 431, 448, 457, 468 and 502.

[On motion duly made and seconded, the Convention adopted the Report of the Committee to approve the resolutions recommended for adoption with the exception of those that were set aside.]

Chairman Currieo. The Chair asked the Convention to consider Resolution 401 which was recommended by the Committee for adoption.

[Following discussion and debate on the motion to approve Resolution 401, the Chair called for the vote. The Convention, by an overwhelming majority, supported the Committee's recommendation and approved Resolution 401.

[Chairman Currieo reported on Resolution 404 which the Committee voted to approve as amended.]

Chairman Currieo. Allow me to explain: 404, as amended, will encompass Resolution 441, 443, 450, 471, 476, 492 and 497.

The amended resolution was drafted by Vice-Chairman Jack Flynn, who as you know, served several years as a Prisoner of War in Vietnam. he is Chairman of our Subcommittee on the Prisoners of War-MIA's and is very knowledgeable on the subject. I am going to ask the Director of the National Security to come forward and read the Resolution 404, as amended, and then it will be open for discussion.

Director Steadman. Resolution 404: America's prisoners of war and missing in action: A non-negotiable matter of honor.

Whereas, twelve years after we witnessed the triumphant return of 566 military and 25 civilian Prisoners of War from Southeast Asia there currently remain 2,478 Americans still missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina; and

Whereas, the families of these U.S. Servicemen and civilians missing in Indochina still suffer untold grief and uncertainty due to lack of an adequate accounting; and

Whereas, the President has declared the issue of America's missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina a matter of highest national priority and has been the only President who has made significant progress on this issue and has just directed increased high level dialogue with the government of the Laos People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on this issue; and

Whereas, there may be something positive to a POW/MIA commission which would assist in resolution of this issue and encourage public awareness, however, there is at present no certainty that such a commission would not politicize this humanitarian issue or sweep it aside as was the case with the 1976 House Select Committee and the 1977 Woodcock Commission on that. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam would not stall or walk out of the forthcoming meeting by charging the commission is an interference in the government to government process; and

Whereas, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in February, 1984, promised to accelerate the resolution of this humanitarian issue, in February, 1985, indicated it was interested in normal relations with the United States; and in July, 1985, offered to resolve this issue within two years through Government contact; and

Whereas, the Commander-in-Chief, recognizing these statements as an opportunity to speed up the recovery of our missing men, has suggested that if Hanoi moves quickly the VFW might consider urging the U.S. Government to establish diplomatic relations; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that if Hanoi keeps its promise of accelerated recovery, then the VFW will consider the issue of normalized relations between the United States Government and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and

Be it resolved, that the VFW supports the President's pledge of highest national priority and his latest effort to resolve the status of 2,463 Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina;

And that the President may want to consider a POW-MIA commission if such uncertainties can be overcome and if it will help maintain his high national priority and aid in the speedy and complete resolution that this issue deserves.

> *Be it further resolved*, that maximum U.S. economic and diplomatic pressure be sustained, for as long as it takes, to the end that those nations and movements which are hindering the search for the MIA's desist from this cruel practice and assist in the search effort as called for not only in the Paris Accords of 1973, but also by our common humanity; and
>
> *Be it further resolved*, that the VFW continues to support and join the Administration and the Congress to speak out forcefully and publicly on this issue of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action; that no most favored nation status be granted the Soviet Union; that no further trade agreements be negotiated with that nation; that no material or monetary aid even be considered for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam or any like-minded countries until such time as an accurate accounting and/or return of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action has been made; and
>
> *Be it further resolved*, that the Subcommittee on POW-MIA's of the National Security Committee, mandated by the 81st National Convention, remain in force until this issue has been fully and fairly resolved; and
>
> *Be it further resolved*, that the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia must continue to be included in all inter-agency discussions from which policy intended to resolve this issue will evolve; and
>
> *Be it further resolved*, that with the impending high level meeting the POW-MIA issue is entering a critical stage. The VFW recognizes and urges a National unity which fully reflects our trust, confidence and support for the President's latest effort."

Director Steadman. That was the amended resolution and Commander-in-Chief, if you would let me explain briefly the rationale for the amendments, they were primarily to bring together the thought of all the resolutions I read earlier that obtained the same subject material.

It is an attempt to come up with a cohesive united front. At this point in time we have to show a united front with progress being made and the attempts to politicize the emotional issue and organize this from the population all over the country.

Many of you have received material, solicitations for funds from other organizations claiming to represent the interest of the MIA's and POW's families and this would dilute and diminish the support for the entire movement if this organization is allowed to continue.

We have to recognize, whether we like it or not, one organization that has some degree of credibility for government issues and a stance is taken. And that is why we put such strong emphasis in that particular area.

This basically is the rationale behind the resolution amendment to provide a united front and to prevent the politicization of this issue.

[Following discussion and debate on the amended resolution, the Convention voted to adopt Resolution 404, as amended.

[Resolution 410 which had been set aside was reported favorably by the Committee. The Resolved paragraph of Resolution 410 reads:

> *Be it resolved* by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that the VFW urges the President and the Congress to take note of the growing crisis in the Philippines and to develop, as a matter of priority, a policy which will insure the Philippines remain a free, stable and supportive aily.

[Following discussion and debate, Resolution 410 was adopted by the Convention.]

Chairman Currieo. The next resolution that was set aside is 413 and it is entitled: Halt the Hemorrhage of Technology. And I would ask the Director to read the resolved portion of the resolution.

Director Steadman.

"*Be it resolved*, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Defense, Commerce and State Departments jointly develop a coordinated program to stop the flow of technology to the Soviet Union; and

Be it further resolved, that as a minimum, the program must include:

(a) the reclassification of important technological secrets so as to prevent open disclosure of information vital to our national security;

(b) more stringent export licensing controls and mandatory tracing of all sensitive technological equipment to insure it reaches the proper destination; and

Be it further resolved, that the Commerce Department is urged to strengthen enforcement of their regulations by requiring the presentation of Shippers Export Declarations to Customs prior to loading the cargo for export from the United States of Amrica; and

Be it further resolved, that we petition Congress to fund and adequately staff the U.S. Customs Service, which has the task of enforcing the Export Administration Regulations to enable the U.S. Custom Service to inspect and examine commodities and technical data intended for export from the United States of America."

[Following discussion and debate, Resolution 413 as read was amended by action of the Convention to call for a coordinated program to stop the flow of technology to all Communist countries. The Convention thereupon voted to adopt Resolution 413, as amended.]

Chairman **CURRIEO**. The last resolution in the report to adopt that was set aside was 427. And it is entitled: Refugees and Illegal Aliens in the United States.

What this resolution pertains to, was to support closing our borders and it didn't specify which borders; the Canadian borders or the Mexican borders and the amendments to the resolution was to close borders to increase the surveillance of those borders by adding into the budget more money for personnel that it would take to supervise and surveil those borders. And I will have the Director come forward and read it as we amended it.

Director **STEADMAN**.

"*Be it resolved*, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States:

(a) the President and the Congress take immediate steps to seal off our borders by adding new patrol officers and other positions and by increasing the surveillance of our borders;

(b) a Congressionally-mandated national effort be undertaken to account for and then deport illegal aliens currently in this country by causing employers to verify the immigration status of their employees;

(c) consideration be given to reviving the guest worker program for non-citizens desiring seasonal work in the United States;

(d) the United States adopt a comprehensive, firm and fair, total immigration policy recognizing that up to one-third of all persons living in Latin America, but for example, desire to immigrate here; in sum, we get a "handle" on this problem of shocking proportion;

(e) that immediate action be taken to expel from our country alien persons, welcomed to this country upon temporary visas for any reason, when such persons are legally found to violate the laws of this country; and

(f) legislation which will come to grips with the problem of illegal aliens in our midst and stem the engulfing tide of more illegals be enacted."

[After discussion the Convention voted to adopt Resolution 427, as amended, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that the Chairman of the Committee will continue the report at tomorrow's session.

[Sergeant-at-Arms Sarver led the Convention in a Salute to the Colors which was followed by the closing prayer given by National Chaplain Christiansen.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron recessed the Convention at 2:30 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning.]

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION, THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22, 1985

(Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum Presiding)

[The Third Business Session of the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was called to order in the arena of the Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas, at 9:00 a.m. by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum.

[Sergeant-at-Arms Sarver led the Convention in a Salute to the Colors and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. National Chaplain Christiansen gave the opening prayer from the Ritual.

[Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief called for the report of the Credentials Committee.]

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

(By Chairman Richard Trombla)

[Comrade Richard Trombla, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, gave the temporary report of his Committee reporting the total voting stength of the Convention at the close of business Wednesday, August 21, 1985, to be 13,751.

[Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Staum recognized microphone No. 1.]

Convention **DELEGATE**. Commander-in-Chief, my name is John Gwizdak, Post 5080, from the great State of Georgia and serving as Judge Advocate, State of Georgia.

I would like to rise at this time, Commander-in-Chief, and address this delegation and the news media assembled here today.

I have never in my life given the privilege to speak for me to anyone except the Veterans of Foreign Wars and at this time I would like to make it perfectly clear to the Veterans of the Vietnam War that no one speaks for me unless I give somebody the right to speak, and this organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has this right, Commander-in-Chief, to speak for me.

I will not accept what anyone else says that is considered to be against this organization.

I have served in Vietnam and I earned the right of appearance to be where I am at and I will not accept letting someone else speak for me.

My peers have given me that right to speak in the State of Georgia and I will continue to serve that and I thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their actions. Thank you.

[Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Staum recognized Convention Delegate Franklin.]

Delegate **FRANKLIN**. Commander-in-Chief, my name is Thomas Franklin, Past State Commander, Department of Louisiana, Post 4224. There was an article in yesterday's paper and the news media put this article in there.

There was a short meeting of some Vietnam Veterans held Tuesday afternoon. We met to discuss an item that was of personal interest to us and the news media saw fit to include this in a little article they had that says, "VFW ranks show rift."

Now, I personally object to this because I was one of the Co-Chairs of that small meeting. It included group of Past State Commanders and all of them were concerned about a couple items and we all take exception to the fact that the news media saw fit to include us as part of a rift in the VFW.

I love this organization. I joined two years after I got home from Vietnam and I have worked for the organization as many of you know. And you have seen me at conventions in the past four or five years and I have always done my best to help the organization and I refuse to be included with Post 5888, the guys that were at us yesterday.

Whenever you talk about a rift in the VFW, you are not talking about 99.9 percent of the VFW Vietnam Vets. You are only talking about a small splinter organization, a small splinter group, and I will not, and I vehemently refuse to be included in that splinter group.

Thank you.

[Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Staum recognized Convention Delegate Anderson.]

Delegate **ANDERSON**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: Richard Anderson, Post 5888. I want to apologize for any misinformation that came out in the press.

I heard this from the distinguished Past Commander from the State of Oregon that it was construed that the Vietnam Vets somehow had a rift in the organization. And I don't agree with that.

There are disagreements on this floor and I understand that the press has been permitted to be here, is that correct?

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief **STAUM**. Correct.

Delegate **ANDERSON**. If they pick that up, I am going to request any disagreements on this floor not be laid on any Post's shoulders.

Thank you.

[Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Staum recognized Convention Delegate Klym.]

Delegate **KLYM**. Commander-in-Chief: Dave Klym, Post 4307, Department of Oregon. I spoke before the comrades of the Post last night and discussed some of the issues that we saw were affecting the Vietnam Veterans here at this Convention, and I also expressed a concern that it is not typical of what the Vietnam Veterans believe in and what we stand for and the work that we have done to work with the rest of the veterans in this organization to have them come together.

Now, I belive that we had a very constructive talk last night and we talked about many things. We talked about nuclear arms, I think we all share a common belief here that eventually we should have disarmament but at least a build-up to where we don't have those fears.

As we are all realistically aware we must be realistic. We feel we should go forth and I say at this time that, if the media were using the same statistics that they used during the Vietnam War to divide us at that time, then we should be working together to stop that.

I urge that the media do this, to get the facts and to talk to all Vietnam Veterans and get their viewpoint and not just the viewpoints from a few, just for a story and that is all they are working at right now.

Commander-in-Chief **Staum**. Let's get back to the business at hand. I will turn the chair back to Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron called to the podium Past Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo, Chairman of the Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs.]

COMPLETION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chairman **Currieo**. Yesterday we presented the resolutions before this committee that were adopted as amended. Now, I will read to you the resolutions that were rejected and the reasons why they were rejected by the committee.

Resolution 402 was rejected in favor of 408.
406 was rejected in favor of 464.
407 was rejected in favor of 467.
415 was rejected in favor of 454.

The Convention Parliamentarian has asked me to state that if any delegate wishes the convention to vote on any of these resolutions rejected by the committee, the delegate must rise to the microphone and move for the adoption of any rejected resolution on an individual basis.

417 has been referred to the National Veterans Service Committee.
419 was rejected in favor of 459.
424 was rejected in favor of 477.
431 was rejected in favor of 499.
438 was rejected in favor of 477.
439 was rejected in favor of 408.
440 was rejected in favor of 499.
441 was rejected in favor of 404 as amended.
442 was rejected in favor of 499.
443 was rejected in favor of 404 as amended.
446 was rejected in favor of 434.
447 was rejected in favor of 413.
448 was rejected in favor of 499.
450 was rejected in favor of 404 as amended
451 was rejected in favor of 437.
452 was rejected in favor of 408.
455 was rejected in favor of 433.
457 was rejected in favor of 408.
471 was rejected in favor of 404 as amended.
472 was rejected in favor of 480.
476 was rejected in favor of 404 as amended.
479 was rejected in favor of 418.
482 was rejected in favor of 410.
483 was rejected in favor of 411.
484 was rejected in favor of 412.
485 was rejected in favor of 414.
486 was rejected in favor of 454.
487 was rejected in favor of 416.
488 was rejected in favor of 405.
489 was rejected in favor of 418.
490 was rejected in favor of 426.

491 was rejected in favor of 421 as amended.
492 was rejected in favor of 404 as amended.
494 was rejected in favor of 469.
495 was rejected in favor of 469.
496 was rejected in favor of 473.
497 was rejected in favor of 404 as amended.
501 was rejected because it was contrary to Rule 8 of the Convention Rules.
502 was rejected in favor of 411.
458 was rejected in favor of 428.
460 was rejected in favor of 420.
468 was tabled. This was another resolution that was asked to be set aside for someone to speak on it and this pertained to the authorization of the Air Force for military personnel serving on foreign soil who come under terrorist attack.

The committee voted to table this resolution for further study because there are military personnel in this country who come under terrorist attack, and if we support a move to authorize the expeditionary medal for one group, we should, under the same tactic, authorize all of them and that is why this resolution was tabled.

Unless you take other action then we will treat it as rejected.

470 was tabled for study.
449 was tabled.
449 was titled Support for the International Medical Corps. The committee tabled this because the committee did not know anything about the International Medical Corps. So rather than to reject it for lack of information, the committee voted to table it.
453 was rejected in favor of 499.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron recognized Convention Delegate Anderson.]

Delegate **Anderson**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Richard Anderson, Post 5888, I rise to mention the resolutions that I asked to be set aside yesterday. Resolutions 431 and 448.

[Commander-in-Chief recognized Convention Delegate Wendt.]

Delegate **Wendt**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Irving Wendt, State Senior Vice Commander, Michigan, Post 2496. I wish to bring on the floor a resolution set aside yesterday, 468. I would like at this time to have the chairman read the entire resolution to the body because many of the delegates here don't know what the resolution covered.

Chairman **Currieo**. Resolution 468, I will read it. The committee voted to table this for further study. The title is: Authorize AFEM for Military Personnel Serving on Foreign Soil Who Come Under A Terrorist Attack.

"Whereas, the President and the Government of the United States acknowledge that acts of terrorism against the United States constitute a new type of warfare; and

"Whereas, the United States military personnel have become targets of terrorist actions worldwide; and

"Whereas, United States military personnel, wounded or killed as a result of terrorist action against the United States, are now authorized the purple heart medal; and

"Whereas, military personnel, serving on foreign soil, who come under terrorist attack deserve to be eligible for membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; now, therefore,

"*Be it resolved*, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Congress of the United States be petitioned to adopt legislation authorizing the Department of Defense to consider such service expeditionary service, entitling all U.S. Military personnel serving on foreign soil who come under terrorist attack to receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal."

Chairman **Currieo**. the reason we voted to table, this was it does not have a great deal of merit and no doubt would be supported but, we felt that by limiting the efforts to get the Armed Forces expeditionary authorized for personnel serving on foreign soil, we would have a problem because we do have military personnel who do come under terrorist attack within the United States.

So, it would take some type of medal of this type that should be for everyone. We feel it should be issued to all those who come under terrorist attack and not limited to foreign soil.

That is the reason.

Commander-in-Chief **Cameron**. I will recognize microphone 2.

Convention **Delegate**. I appreciate your reading that to the delegates. My sole purpose in speaking is the same as the last talker. Put this resolution before the convention and make the government aware of the problem of our servicemen today who come back to this country maimed, bullet holes in their arms, legs gone as a result of terrorist attack.

Our President has now said terrorism is an act of war and Congress said it is an act of war and I would like to see the VFW indeed help these people with the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the reason I said "overseas" is because our veterans organization is a veterans organization of foreign wars.

Recently, in my state of Michigan, we had one young man killed by terrorist attacks . . . another wounded. I would like to tell him that the VFW fought to get the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for him. If it is not passed on the floor today, I recommend that we give it serious thought to give some thought of recognition for the young servicemen today.

[Following a motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution 468 and further discussion, the motion was put to a vote. The Chair declared the "no" votes to be in the majority and the resolution rejected.]

INTRODUCTION OF GLENNETA VOGELSANG, PRESIDENT OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief **Cameron**. It is indeed a pleasure this morning, that I have the opportunity to introduce to you a special lady. "Guardians of Liberty" is her theme. She helped lead the Ladies Auxiliary to its highest membership in the history of our Ladies Auxiliary.

I have got to say one thing: She was an outstanding National President, and in fact, as I said this morning, as I addressed the ladies, if I could have picked a National President, that I don't believe I could have picked one as good as Glenneta Vogelsang.

Let's give her and our National Ladies Auxiliary a nice welcome this morning.

REMARKS OF GLENNETA VOGELSANG, PRESIDENT OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY

Glenneta Vogelsang. Thank you, comrades. Thank you. I won't take long. Comrades, Ladies, Commander Billy Ray, National Officers and Delegates Assembled: I thank you for allowing me the privilege to come before this body to bring my appreciation for the many, many, nice things you have done not only for me, but for the Ladies Auxiliary this year.

Billy Ray Cameron has been a great spokesman for our Ladies Auxiliary and as you are well aware, he always says, "Our Veterans of Foreign Wars, and our Ladies Auxiliary, one unit working together for the Veterans and their families in the community."

Billy Ray, I would like to tell you how much I appreciate the many courtesies that you extended to me.

To Howard Vander Clute and his staff of officers: I thank you, Howard, for working so well not only with our headquarters staff in Kansas City, but your personal friendship and support through the year. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

To Cooper Holt from our Washington office, for his many duties in arranging and helping with our overseas trip; to his staff and for our visits into Washington, D.C., Cooper, thank you, too, for all you have done.

To the great Southern Conference that had the foresight to have a man like Billy Ray Cameron as my Commander-in-Chief: I say thank you to the Southern Conference.

To the Departments that I have had the opportunity to visit this year: You don't know what it means to a National President to come into your state and have the Veterans of Foreign Wars turn out to welcome you, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary.

I do appreciate your many kindnesses, your great hospitality, and your joint programs. I especially want to thank you for your support of the Ladies Auxiliary Cancer Aid and Research Fund.

It has been tremendous, and without that support we could not have gained and reached our two million plus goal in cancer research and for the first time to join with your Commander-in-Chief in presenting a cancer research grant or Duke University.

There are two other people that have made this year so enjoyable, and I am sure that you realize the importance of the spouse of the Commander-in-Chief or the Ladies Auxiliary National President and the importance he plays in the success of this year.

So at this time, I would like to introduce my husband, Cal Vogelsang, and have him stand up before you all and tell him I love him and thanks so much for all of his support.

And to Jeanette Cameron, the lovely wife of our Commander-in-Chief: Jeanette, thank you for coming with us this morning and for the time we spent together. I feel we truly have a real family in you and Billy Ray and the children. I have enjoyed all the time that we have been allowed to spend together and I am hoping after this, that will not stop, that it will continue.

My best wishes to John and his staff for another most successful year, breaking all the records that have been set. I know you will do it with your capable leadership.

To each and every department: I again say thank you. Thank you for being Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thank you for having a Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you for allowing me to be the National President.

At this time, Billy Ray, I would like to present to you, your flag, your personal flag for your home and as they are placed I hope that they will remind you of the true love and support that the Ladies Auxiliary has given the Veterans of Foreign Wars this year and my own personal love and appreciation for your organization and for you.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you very much, Glenneta, and now I would also like to thank the Posts and thank you for your help and, of course, to my lovely wife, Jeanette, who came in this morning with the National President, I want to say thank you and to the two kids who are here also, thank you and God Bless you.

National President VOGELSANG. I would be remiss if I didn't introduce Sharon Reindinger, my Chief of Staff. Thank you for all you have done this year.

The National President and delegation from the Ladies Auxiliary was escorted from the hall by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron recognized Convention Delegate Anderson.]

Delegate ANDERSON. Commander-in-Chief, Anderson, Post 5888, I believe 431 was set aside! The report of the committee was to reject Resolution 431 in favor of amended Resolution 499, is that correct?

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. That is correct.

Delegate ANDERSON. May I hear the amended Resolution 499, please.

Chairman CURRIEO. So the delegates will know what happened on these two resolutions, I am going to read the resolved part of Resolution 431 which the committee rejected in favor of 499 which really encompassed the thoughts and spirit of all the resolutions on Central America.

First, the resolved part of Resolution 431:

"*Be is resolved*, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that:

"(a) the Commander-in-Chief of the VFW calls upon the Congress to reassert publicly and clearly the continued validity of the "Monroe Doctrine" as a proper guide for U.S. Policy towards the other nations of the Western Hemisphere;

"(b) we keep the School of America alive as a common training experience for military leaders of Latin American nations and we continue and increase the additional training of such leaders here in the United States; and, finally,

"(c) America, by its actions as well as its words, both draw the line against further communists encroachment and helpfully and creatively extend the hand of freedom and dignity, such as has been the case by our new resolute policies with respect to drawing the line in El Salvador and by discontinuing any form of aid to Marxist Nicaragua."

Let me read the entire Resolution 499 as amended. This resolution is the one that we recommended for adoption and which the convention adopted yesterday:

"Bipartisan Support Needed now for Central America, the Caribbean and South America.

"Whereas, the United States has enormous strategic, political and economic stakes in Central America, the Caribbean and South America—Puerto Rico, Guantanamo Naval Base, oil deposits in Mexico, the Canal, the emergence of Brazil as a power of the first rank—etc.; and

"Whereas, on his February 1985 trip, then Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, John Staum confirmed that the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and South America are facing complex political, economic and social problems which are aggregated by the revolutionary intrusion of Soviet and Cuban influence; and

"Whereas, this Communist intrusion in the Western Hemisphere undermines the democratic trends and intitutions in the region, threatens the spread of subversion, terrorism and guerrilla warfare and endangers the security of the Western Hemisphere and the United States; and

"Whereas, documents and arms captured in Grenada represent stark evidence of the Soviet intrusion in Central America and the Caribbean via their Cuban surrogate Castro; and

"Whereas, the Bipartisan Commission on the problems of Central America concluded that Central America's conflicts had to be redued to Central American dimensions by forcing the retreat of Soviet and Cuban influence and support; now, therefore

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Administration and Congress to express and demonstrate their support for democracy throughout the Western Hemisphere by holding the line against further Communist intrusion, and

Be it further resolved, that the Administration and the Congress recognize the validity of the Bipartisan Commission's conclusions and recommendations by:

(a) adopting resolute policies that force the retreat of Communism from the region and which enforce the spirit of the Monroe Doctrine; and

(b) provide all the necessary economic assistance and political support and other aid as required by the struggling democratic and democratic movements of this region to overcome the mounting problems and halt the establishment of Marxist regimes."

This resolution encompasses the thought of all those resolutions submitted pertaining to Central America.

Delegate ANDERSON. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, Anderson, Post 5888. The reason I thought we should set aside Resolution 431 is because I am mandated by my Post to come here to this convention and speak on behalf of the Post. And I beg your indulgence.

Chairman CURRIO. Comrades, 431 was recommended by the committee to be rejected. So, unless there is a motion to approve Resolution 431, it stands rejected. Resolution 499 was a resolution that the convention adopted yesterday. It encompasses the sense of all the Central American resolutions.

Motions that were introduced to adopt Resolutions 431 and 438 were not seconded and the Chair ruled that the motions failed for lack of a second.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron recognized convention delegate Anderson.]

Delegate ANDERSON. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I would just like to say I appreciate your indulgence in this matter. I am new in the Veterans of Foreign Wars in a two year old Post and like I said before, I was mandated by the members of my Post—my Post to come and say these things.

I appreciate your time and patience and I humbly apologize if I have done anything to embarrass anyone or any segment or part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars particularly the Vietnam Veterans. My feelings is that we have a lot of questions and that they should be expressed and I once again, thank the Commander-in-Chief for your patience.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. I would like to say to Comrade Anderson, I did tell them they had an opportunity to express their opinions on this floor and that they would be well received and I think we are proud that you stood up and said what you think, and we thank you.

Chairman CURRIEO. Commander-in-Chief, this concludes our committee's report. Thank you very much for allowing us to serve you in this convention and with your permission, we request to be dscharged from our responsibilities so we can enjoy the rest of this convention.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you, Bob, for a job well done, and at this time I will dismiss your committee.

RESOLUTION FOR PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JAMES E. VAN ZANDT

At this time I will present our National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John Staum for the purpose of presenting a resolution, "Salute to James E. Van Zandt."

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief STAUM. Thank you Commander-in-Chief Cameron.

It is a real honor to be able to introduce this resolution entitled "Salute to James E. Van Zandt."

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt, "Jimmie" as he is affectionately known to all in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has devoted virtually his entire adult life to promoting, protecting and provided for the needs of our Nation's veterans, regardless of their rank, their war or their campaign or expedition; and

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt has been a shining example to all members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the high caliber, the exellence and the peerless manner in which a properly motivated veteran can pursue goals that will benefit all veterans and our beloved country; and

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James A. Van Zandt, a Congressman and a veteran of the Navy in the First World War, stood on the floor of the House of Representatives on Septembr 23, 1943, and announced to his Congressional colleagues he was enlisting for World War II:

"My resignation is the result of my intense desire to serve my country in the Armed Forces as a member of the United States Navy," to which President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a member of the opposing political party, later remarked to him,

"I envy you, Van Zandt. If I didn't have these (tapping his paralyzed legs), I'd do the same thing," and Jimmie went on to serve in the Korean war a decade later: and

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt, served a total of 22 years in the United States House of Representatives "in a career that has spanned nine Presidents and generations of change," as one writer expressed it; and

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt, did not conclude his career of service when he retired from the House of Representatives, but continued to serve Pennsylvania—and by extension his country—by assisting his State's Congressional delegation and two of Pennsylvania's governors; and

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt, is the only man in the history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to serve three terms of Commander-in-Chief, a solid testimonial to his effectiveness as a veterans' advocate; and

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt, a railroader for 22 years before becoming a Congressman and an Olympic aspirant in 1924, has retained his passionate zeal for physical fitness, exercising every day and, thereby, inspiring far younger persons to emulate him; and

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt is remembered wth special gratitude by veterans of the First World War for his robust and vigorous advocacy of their soliders' bonus and for the manner in which he enlisted the support for this cause of famed Marine General, Smedley D. Butler—crisscrossing this country in a nonstop campaign that was crowned with success; and

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt has won accolade after accolade as an orator of the first magnitude in his advocacy of Veterans' rights, unstinting in the application of his rhetorical skills and has delivered at least 10,000 speeches and,

"Whereas, Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt remains a legend in his own time, and every veteran owes him a deep debt of gratitude for helping make every American aware of the sacrifices made in defending and extending American freedom; now, therefore

"*Be it resolved,* by the 86th National Convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we adopt this salute to James E. Van Zandt as an expression of the warmth all veterans feel for this sterling, generous and dedicated human being."

Commander-in-Chief, I so move we adopt this salute to James E. Van Zandt.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Is there a second?

Convention DELEGATE. Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Jones from Pennsylvania. I second this motion and certainly, we from the Department of Pennsylvania, wish to accept it.

Past Surgeon General JOHN B. COATES, Jr. Thank you very much, Commander-in-Chief. Officers, delegates and friends, no one in the world probably would be here more than my friend, our Past Commander-in-Chief, if he could.

Thank you very much, Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. All in favor say aye.

Convention DELEGATES. Aye.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you.

The Past Surgeon General John B. Coates, Jr., would like to say a few words on behalf of Jimmie Van Zandt, a true friend.

Past Surgeon General COATES. Thank you very much Commander-in-Chief. Officers, delegates and friends: No one in the world probably would be here more this morning with you comrades than Admiral Van Zandt, Jimmy Van Zandt. I spoke to him last Wednesday night by phone, and he again said, with vigor, how he intended to be here in Dallas with all of us.

I arrived here Saturday and Jimmy wasn't there. At 12:00 that night I was awakened by a phone call from his wife, Meise, who said Jimmy was just too sick to come. They postponed it a night until Sunday and then she knew he couldn't come. She took him to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, and Jimmy underwent surgery on his brain.

I spoke the day before yesterday to Doctor Harris, his Neurosurgeon at Bethesda, and Doctor Harris said that he had good news—well, not such good news, but not bad news. Jimmy is alert most of the time. He waxes and wanes a little bit, but he is improving and Doctor Harris said that there was no further bleeding, and that he expected Jimmy would be taken to return to his home soon.

Thank you Comrades, and on behalf of the Department of Pennsylvania, let me again add to what Commander Jones had said. We thank you on behalf of Jimmy Van Zandt and his wife and we thank all of you most appreciably. Thank you again.

NATIONAL POST RECORD AWARD

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief STAUM. Comrades, we are honored to present a presentation here, a National Post Record Award to Comrade Vannicelli, Commander of the State of Ohio and Comrade Glen Rohr, Past State Commander. Sergeant-at-Arms would you escort Past Commander Glen Rohr to the podium.

As you all know, in the New Post Program, we enjoyed a most successful year. We authorized 261 new Posts and these new Posts contributed over a hundred thousand, five hundred new and reinstated members. At this time it gives me the greatest pleasure to present the Department of Ohio a flag for establishing the new national record for Post Development. The Department of Ohio established 25 new Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts this last membership year thus establishing an all time high for a department for a single year. This milestone is the highlight for an ongoing department, and it realizes new Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Post contributed greatly to the future of our organization, and the award of this milestone is a small part of the continuing success story in 1983 and 1984 of National Headquarters to develop shotgun mailings, a recruiting tool for the establishment of new VFW Posts and the Department of Ohio in June of 1983 requested six shot-gun mailings, and the third department to try the new technique and was overwhelmed by the responses and has realized the effective results.

Ohio cleared through Department Headquarters to implement their own shot-gun operation and the results are evident. Since that June of 1983, just 25 months ago, the Department has organized 47 new Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts, which have represented over three thousand new or reinstated members at the close of July of this year, and each of these 47 VFW Posts were organized as shot-gun mailing methods, and there was not one that has failed to date and it is truly a remarkable record.

This accomplishment reflects the outstanding leadership in the Department of Ohio and is the cumulative result of the efforts made by dedicated comrades.

The flag reads, "Presented to the Department of Ohio in recognition for their outstanding achievements in Post Development by instituting twenty-five new Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts for the year 1984–85, thereby, establishing a national record of Post Development August 1985."

Congratulations to you and the members who made this possible.

RESPONSE BY PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROHR

Past Department Commander ROHR. Thank you Senior Vice Commander John Staum. I want to accept this award on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, State of Ohio, and I want to accept it because my staff of officers last year and the year before under George "Curly" Miller, our District Commander and our membership of a hundred and thirteen thousand, four hundred forty-one members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, State of Ohio, and I accept it for them.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio have worked on this program, they have worked for our cause, firstly because they believe in God and they believe in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and lastly, but not least, they believe in the United States of America. Thank you very much.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. At this time I will ask for the Veterans Service Committee report from the Chairman, Pat Carr.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE

(By Past Commander-in-Chief Carr, Chairman)

Chairman CARR. I know it is late, and this is the last report so I am going to go through it as rapidly as I can.

The Committee met at 2:30 Sunday afternoon. Sub-committee chairman and vice chairmen were assigned as follows:

VA Department of Veterans Benefits Subjects:

Chairman William R. Kirsop, Florida, and Vice Chairman George J. Symes, South Dakota.

Hospital and Medical Programs:

Chairman Raymond G. O'Neill, Michigan, and Vice Chairman Dennis F. Flynn, Missouri.

Civil Service and Employment:

Chairman Henry S. Kuniyuki, Hawaii, and Vice Chairman Walter Luksta, Illinois.

Armed Forces:

Chairman Nelson Ballew, Georgia, and Vice Chairman Charles D. Barstad, North Dakota.

General, Policy, Administrative, Miscellaneous:

Chairman LeRoy Vigil, New Mexico, and Vice Chairman Richard L. Mayhew.

Of course, I wish also to speak to you of our appreciation of Past Commander-in-Chief Bulldog Smith as Vice Chairman of the Committee for his Assistance and thank all the committee members and delegates for their perserverance in identifying and acting on those matters which are of such importance to all veterans.

I also wish to thank Don Schwab, the Director of the National Legislative Service, and Fred Juarbe, Director of National Veterans Service, and the members of their staff.

They both gave us necessary technical expertise.

I am going to read only the resolution number unless I hear any objection. I will assume that the resolutions have been available to those who desire to see what they contain.

If I have no objections I am going to to read only the number. I will read first those that the committee recommended for approval.

Now, some of these resolutions I might point out were amended simply for clarification. I am not going to read all the little changes that took place, but they were amended simply for clarification purposes. 601, 603, 604, 607, 608, 609, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 633, 635, 637, 638, 641, 643, 648, 649, 653, 654, 661, 662, 669, 672, 673, 678, 680, 681, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 692, 694, 695, 697, 698, 699, 700, 702, 703, 705, 708, 709, 710, 719, 724, 725, 726, 729, 733, 735, 737, 738, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 751, 754, 757, 764, 765, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780 and 781.

In addition thereto, we received, after the meeting—I must tell you the committee as a whole did not act on it; the Chairman, Mr. O'Neill, looked at it and several of his committee people, and he recommended approval.

It is 783, and what it simply does is urge the VA to proceed with all expedition to complete the addition and extension of the VA medical center in Martinez, California.

Based on the recommendation of the Chairman and two or three members with whom he consulted, it is recommended by the committee, and I represent the committee, by the committee, that it also be adopted.

I would move that that committee report recommending adoption of the resolutions I have indicated be approved.

The motion was duly seconded and adopted by the convention.

INTRODUCTION OF HON. JAKE GARN, U.S. SENATOR, RECIPIENT OF THE VFW SPACE AWARD, GOLD MEDAL AND CITATION

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Last April a member of the United States Senate became the first American public official to travel in space. It was a courageous act, not only because of the dangers of lift off, space travel and landing, but because he also volunteered to subject himself to medical experiments during the flight which he knew would cause him a great deal of discomfort.

In addition, he became the subject of conjecture and criticism because of the possibility that he used his influence over NASA to get the flight assignment.

But, Senator Jake Garn of Utah is above that criticism. As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee that provides funding for NASA, he felt it was appropriate to go on the mission and learn firsthand about space flight and NASA expenditures and the VFW commends him for it.

Jake Garn has devoted a major portion of his life to aviation and space. His father was an aviator back in 1917, and the Senator himself served as both a Navy Aviator and an Air National Guard Command Pilot.

During his first term in the Senate, he served as a member of the old Senate Space Committee and he has been involved with our space program ever since as both a supporter and sometimes a critic of NASA funding.

For his participation as a crew-member aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery and his continuing oversight and support of our American Space Programs, we are honored to present the VFW Space Award to the Honorable Jake Garn, Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs Committee and the Senior Senator from the great State of Utah.

I shall read the text of the VFW Space Award Citation: "Presented to Honorable Jake Garn."

> "In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement and development of the space programs of the United States of America as a member of Congress and for his personal courage and determination as a volunteer crewman, subjecting himself to medical experiments, aboard space shuttle mission 51D from April 12 through April 19, 1985 to become the first U.S. Public official in space."
>
> Signed by Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, and Adjutant General, Hunter Vander Clute.

REMARKS OF SENATOR GARN

Senator GARN. Thank you very much. I can't tell you how grateful I am and how pleased and honored that you have made me today.

I am also proud to have a Utah hat on. We have got some Utahans out there at this convention and I am pleased they are here. I am pleased for the opportunity to spend just a few minutes with you, telling you a little bit about my space flight.

It was mentioned that my father was a pilot in World War I. He was back in the days when there was no Army Air Corps, and in those days it was part of the Army, a small corps, and I guess they did not decide that aviation was going to be a permanent part of the military, but was used primarily as a scout in carrying messages in the early days of the war, but it was absolutely mandatory that I become a pilot.

My father didn't care whether I was a bum or not, as long as I was a pilot. Whatever else I did in life was all right. So, I did have the opportunity to initially start out as a Navy Pilot.

When I finished my active duty, there was no Naval Air Reserve in Salt Lake City. My loyalty to the Navy was not nearly as great as my love of flying, so I transferred to the Air Force and served more than——

Before you get too excited about that, for my Navy friends, I told the Air Force they needed a good Navy pilot to square them away.

So I did spend nearly 20 years in the Air Force Reserve Corps before retiring 5 years ago.

But I always thought it would be such a fantastic opportunity to be able to fly in space.

I remember sitting with my father watching Neil Armstrong walk on the moon, the very first moon shot and my father started to cry. I was puzzled by this and I said, "Dad, what is wrong? Why are you crying? This is such a magnificent event."

He said, "I know; I am not sad; I am overcome with the emotion of the thing. Here I am, sitting with my son, watching men walk on the moon, because," he said, "when I was ten years old, I sat with my father and he read me the newspaper account of the Wright Brothers' first flight; and he said, "just think of that, this one man's lifetime, for men flying an aircraft to a little more than a hundred twenty feet to men walking on the moon."

That is an incredible example of the technical explosion we have had in this country.

The very first speech I gave when I came back from my space flight in April was to my six year old's kindergarten class.

I have seven children from the age of—the oldest son is 27 and the youngest one is 3. Whatever age you want, I have all ages. I have high school, junior high, grade school, and preschool all at the same time. No one can accuse me of not understanding the educational system of this country.

But, nevertheless, I spoke to this kindergarten class, and I felt impressed to tell those six year olds that some of them would walk on Mars. Some of them would live in permanent space stations on the moon, and some of them may even leave our solar system.

I noticed the teachers of these combined kindergarten classes in the back. Their eyes rolled, why would we have this Buck Rogers type in here confusing these little boys and girls with these outlandish stories?

I said to them—I said, I know some of you think that is far out, and I shouldn't be making predictions of this kind. So I told them the story of my father that I just related to you. But I went further and I said, I want you to stop and think what an easy prediction that is, compared to when I was six years old.

When I was six years old it was 1938, and I went to school in—well, I went to school in Salt Lake City, and, as I said the teachers were middle-aged, bald-headed, and if they had been told back then that someday we would go 2.8 million miles out into space, they would have looked at you and sent you up to the State Mental Institution for the rest of your life.

Back in 1938 TV has not yet been developed, no jet aircraft. I remember going into an airport with my father a year later and looking at the newspaper accounts of the first DC4 arriving at Salt Lake City. Thirty thousand people showed up at the airport to look at the plane just for the airplane arrival.

There were no computers. My father drove a car with wooden spoke wheels, and so if you look at that and the development, it would really be difficult for anybody to imagine we would have landed men on the moon, and that we would have an orbit in space craft and conventional airplanes. So, the future is incredible in space.

The scientific development that will come from it will surprise all of you because of the many products that we use today in our everyday life that come from the space program.

I am also asked by people, "Why do we waste money on space?" Well, first of all, we've never spent a dime in space. I never take a wallet or credit card with me. There are no stories out there. Every dime in the space budget is spent here on earth.

On my flight Charlie Walker, a space specialist from McDonald Douglas, was there and I don't know what they were doing. They had an experiment going on in the process of the pharmaceuticals and as hard as I tried to get him to tell me what they were working on, it was priority information and he wouldn't give me a hint.

I told him that we needed a lot more people like him in Washington who could keep their mouths shut.

But, they believe that they will have a major medical breakthrough because you can process pharmaceuticals 100 times more efficiently in zero gravity and four times more pure. And just consider the fact that if they, or some other company in the future, does come up with cure for a major disease, that would justify the cost of the entire space program from the very first flight to the last one, regardless of what we do in the way of commercial satellites.

So, there is an incredible future out there, and there's going to be amazing benefits to mankind.

So I make no apologies whatsoever for my support of the space program. People can accuse me if they want to, and Dunesbury and others did, about being bought by NASA and things and about the space program, but for a long time people didn't listen. Now they do.

So we have a great future out there in space. It was the only time that I wished that I was younger in my life because I would like to be one of those people on Mars or Venus and obviously, I won't be. But, let me tell you one impression I had of the space flight.

I could take far longer than I am allotted to tell you about the launch.

It is obviously exciting to sit on 4.2 million gallons of fuel that produces seven million pounds of thrust. There was one point prior to the launch on April 12 of this year, when you have a very lonely feeling, when they close it out, the crew leaves the space craft, they close the side door and everybody goes three and a half miles away and you have a thought, "I wonder if they know something that we don't know."

I guess, literally, no one is closer, not even the firefighters, to that pad than three and a half miles. The launch is situated with a solid rocket booster and a light and you know you're not going any place for at least two minutes. You hope it does go in the right direction when it goes, because those solid rocket boosters are not controllable.

You pass through the speed of sound at nineteen thousand feet and by the time that two minutes are up, the solid rocket boosters, you are twenty-five miles down range, more than a hundred fifty thousand feet up, five and a half times the speed of sound and by the time the guy—well, you have an external tank burning with liquid hydrogen and oxygen and you are in orbit traveling in excess of seventeen thousand mile an hour.

And I try to put that into perspective for my children, what would take four hours, non-stop to Washington, on a satellite in orbit would take five minutes.

Weightlessness is impossible to describe. It is so magnificent. I wish I could wiggle my toes and show you how I can float to the top of the arena, but unfortunately, I am an earthbound mortal subject to the laws of gravity, like all of you.

The thing most impressive is not the mobility of zero gravity, but the beauty of earth.

We do live on a magnificent planet, and, if all of you could be astronauts, you would definitely have an impression, looking back at the earth, that it is a space ship. A very small one in terms of the size of the Universe. And it is traveling about the sun. It is rotating every twenty-four hours and you view it as a space shuttle. It is difficult to describe how beautiful it is.

You have sixteen sunrises and sunsets every day, forty-five minutes of daylight and forty-five minutes of darkness and when you go into one of the sunset periods, for just a few moments in space, looking behind you, the Earth becomes black and the space craft is still in the sun, reflecting the light of the sun, but it appears to be emanating that light, the beautiful white space craft.

All around you are John Glenn firecrackers. And when John discovered them, no one knew what they were and they were somewhat of a worry to NASA, but we found out, many years ago, it is simply frozen ice crystals, but they also reflect the sun light. Beautiful colors. All the colors of the rainbow.

So you have this fantastically beautiful white space craft with miles of these white ice crystals floating about, following you at more than seventeen thousand miles an hour.

You've also been told by many others who have flown, not an original thought from me at all, that you see no boundaries. You don't. You don't see any State Capitols or National Capitol, no boundaries between countries.

So, along with this tremendously beautiful earth, I also had a great feeling of sadness which all of you know about. All of you having served in the foreign wars of this country and made great sacrifices for our own freedom and opportunities that we enjoy, we flew over particular areas, like the Middle East, and I could see Iran and Iraq, and know of the conflicts that are going on there and for many years now, nearly five, and flying over Ethiopia and having seen pictures of starving people in that country due to draught and politics and other problems, and flying over nicaragua and recognizing the difficulty there, and what you look back at is this beautiful Earth and the sadness comes from knowing that most of God's children who live on this Earth live in poverty.

Not the kind we define below a certain income level for a family of four, but the kind that they don't know if they have enough food to feed their children.

I don't know where I ever felt more proud of my country, knowing we've produced more material abundance and more freedom and opportunity than any country in the history of this Earth, that we are the only government in existence today after two hundred years continuously there and there is no government in any country that has survived as long as we have and preserved freedom on this Earth at least twice, World War I and World War II, and then you look at the Earth and think, we have enough natural resources to take care of all God's children.

We have the ability to grow enough food to feed adequately every human being on the face of this Earth, and the question comes, forcefully to me, why not?

And the reason why not is because of the few individuals in history of mankind, the Hitler's and Stalin's and the Daniel Ortegas, the descendants of this Earth, in history, who want to impose their will on others. The people of Russia don't want war. They don't want conflict with us. The ordinary Iranian and Iraqian don't want war going on.

That photo was so forcefully in my mind, how sad it is that just a few individuals have caused so much difficulty and turmoil. Every one of you served in a war. You served because of just a handful of men. Not a majority. Not even a smidgeon of people on the Earth.

I don't know the answers to that. I don't know how you solve that problem. All I know is I feel very strongly that this nation has a particular destiny. We are the only one that can preserve that freedom for mankind. There's no other country.

Those of you who served know what I am talking about and we have a continued obligation. Because, if we don't do that, if we don't remain strong, if we do not remain independent, and it isn't just for our own people in this country, but we are subject to—all of God's children on the face of this Farth to the type of government that I have described.

So it was a fantastic experience and, personally, to be able to fly in space was a very sobering experience. Again, observing the beauty of the Earth, but the sadness of so many of our people around this world, it made me feel even more strongly about my views that we must remains strong. We do have an obligation to help all of God's children on the face of this Earth.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMODORE THOMAS A. BROOKS, USN, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Comrades, now is the time that it is my great pleasure to introduce Thomas Brooks, from the Defense

Intelligence Agency, to speak to us about our men still missing in Southeast Asia.

The Prisoners of War and Missing in Action have been one of our priority goals this past year, and thanks to your support, we have made good progress.

This progress lays the foundation for new opportunities to resolve this important issue in the near future.

With this in mind, we have asked Commodore Brooks to speak to us about the POW/MIA situation.

Commodore Brooks is a native of New York City and a graduate of Fordham University and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

He joined the Navy in 1958 and was commissioned in 1959 as an Intelligence Specialist.

His assignments have included service with an amphibious group staff; Assistant Naval Attache in Turkey; and duty with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Commodore Brooks also served as Commanding Officer of the Naval Investigative Service in Vietnam; as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence of the Second Fleet; and as Chief Intelligence Officer for the Atlantic Command.

In December 1984, he was selected for Flag Rank and promoted to Commodore. Since then he has become the Defense Intelligence Agency's Deputy Director for Collection where he oversees the efforts to collect information on our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

Comrades, please join me in welcoming Commodore Thomas A. Brooks.

REMARKS OF COMMODORE BROOKS

Commodore **BROOKS**. Thank you very much, Commander-in-Chief Cameron, National Officers of the VFW, fellow Veterans of Foreign Wars:

As a VFW Member myself—it is particularly a pleasure to be able to address this 86th Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I would like to, before I begin my remarks, thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars and in particular thank the Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, for the concern you have shown for the POW/MIA issue, and in particular, for my understanding of what was a lot of personal involvement in hammering out the resolutions which you passed.

According to the President in his efforts toward resolving the issue, the issue on the POW/MIA is not only an issue of concern to those of us who fought in America's Foreign Wars past, but it is an issue of concern to my sons and I don't have seven, I can't compete with Senator Garn, but I have three teenage sons, at least one of whom wants to be a Naval Officer like their father and grandfather; one of whom wants to fly jet aircraft like Senator Garn, and the POW/MIA concerns now, not only us, but them.

They have got to be assured, as we were assured, if they fight for the United States in the Foreign Wars, that if they are wounded, that they will be retrieved and receive the best possible medical attention.

If they are shot down, they will be rescued before the enemy can capture them and if they are captured, we will spare no effort in getting them returned.

America's MIA's, we cannot leave as prisoners behind.

I understand from reading the program last night that we are now over two million strong. I want to thank the individual efforts of the two million members of the VFW. Your petitions and your letters, your community effort toward publishing awareness to the MIA problem have not gone unnoted in Hanoi.

If we had received from Hanoi the kind of cooperation which dictates humanity in the Convention of 1973 in Paris, which gave us all reason to expect they would, and if they had, the issue of the POW/MIA's could have been long since resolved and the questions in the minds of the families of the MIA's would have been answered.

As you know, ladies and gentlemen, such is not the case. We are endeavoring to persuade them and it is very much in their interest to accelerate their efforts for accounting for our POW's and MIA's and there should be no doubt in the minds that this issue enjoys the highest priority with the President of the United States.

Of course, you know that the problem is in Hanoi, not in Washington.

There is no need for me to re-emphasize to you President Reagan's complete commitment to the solution of the POW/MIA issue. He had made it an issue of the highest National priority. He is genuinely, personally interested and receives periodic briefings on the subject and he has expressed himself on this issue in terms of much more eloquence than I can use to express myself.

All echelons of executive departments, including my little cubbyhole in the Defense Intelligence Agency, are equally committed to the solution of this issue.

We have an obligation to do so for the American people and we have an obligation to do so to those who fought beside us in Vietnam, some of whom are MIA's today, still. And I suppose, equally important, if not more important, as I mentioned before, we have an obligation to the future generations of Americans who will be called upon to fight our foreign wars.

After many years and various approaches by myself with the administration, there is finally a unified U.S. Government policy strategically to resolve this issue.

I hasten to add, this is not a political issue. We have received a total bipartisan support in all efforts toward resolving the POW/MIA issue and the government is working steadfast to secure the return of any POW's who may be held, to achieve the fullest possible accounting of those who died in service to this country.

Inter-agency groups which comprise the State Department office of the JCS and National Security Council and the League of Families and the Intelligence Agency, meet regularly to hammer out our strategy in dealing with the Vietnamese on this subject.

We assure you we are doing every possible effort to pursue this, to achieve the end of the accounting of these men. And I think General Vessey spoke with you earlier this week, and I have been informed he said that he thinks we are near a breakthrough. I would sincerely say I think we have every indication, and we will be updating you on the status of the Government Intelligence resolving this difficult issue in which all involved areas will be brought out with a brief overview of our pursuit.

Now, I will get into numbers here and percentages, which perhaps might be confusing, but I would ask you to bear with me because they are important.

I am pointing to just one kind of intelligence that we have and how much with regard to the POW/MIA issue we have. But before I get into this, though, I would like to make one statement which I hope you will remember. If you remember nothing else of what I say, please remember the total dedication of the people involved in this toward the resolution of the issue; and the second thing I would like for you to remember is the operating assumption upon which we base our efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have not been able to conclusively irrefutably prove the existence of live Americans in Indochina. Nonetheless, based on the evidence on hand, our operating assumption is that there are live Americans in Indochina and that is the basis upon which we operate.

We actively have pursued all intelligence information pertaining to POW/MIA's, most commonly from refugees from Indochina. Indochinese refugees, boat people and people displaced by the fighting and to a lessor degree displaced by the fighting in Cambodia and Hanoi and the refugees are questioned by joint volunteer agencies and the United Refugee's Personnel and the personnel from the refugee camps and part of this process is to ask them, "Do you have any information on American Prisoners of War or Missing in Action in Indochina?"

A DIA representative makes regular trips out to Southeast Asia to visit the refugee camps to make certain that all of the interviewing personnel are sensitized to the importance of this issue to the highest priority which is placed on getting this information and we continue to ensure you that the machinery is in place and working to provide us with whatever information these refugees might have.

During the past year our reporting on this issue has increased substantially. I must preface this remark, however, with the observation that over nine hundred fifty of the reports we have received are what we call "Dog Tag Reports." Vietnamese refugees, coming out, either in some cases with copies of dog tags themselves or Vietnamese coming out with information which appears as though it had been retrieved from a dogtag.

In examining this information, nine hundred and fifty reports, over seventy percent, pertain to Americans who have come out alive from Indochina, who have returned, and an additional twenty percent pertain to people whose remains have been recovered, returned and are buried in the United States.

In other words, ninety percent of these reports don't pertain to Americans alive in Indochina today at all.

The question then becomes, of course, where is this information coming from and why is it being provided to us? We believe it is part of the managed misinformation program to influence and inflame the POW/MIA issue. To some extent this information can be successful in that it has caused us to redivert a lot of our efforts of investigation into these reports to areas which might be better spent investigating live Prisoners of War.

The reports, unfortunately, usually capture the imagination of some of the private sector and those who have used this recycling of information get it to the families of the MIA's causing great discomfort among those families.

Since the fall of Indochina to Communism in 1975, the DIA has received over four thousand reports of Indochinese refugees concerning the POW/MIA issue, including the nine hundred fifty dog-tags.

This includes alleged sightings of American locations, grave site locations and reports concerning the handling of the remains of Americans either down or otherwise killed in North Vietnam.

The majority of the information has been other than live sighting reports.

Live sighting reports comprise only twenty percent; actually some of that is less than seven hundred eighty-eight cases that were reported of live sightings of Caucasians in Vietnam.

Again, we will resolve the eighty-three percent of those they parley; again, they are individuals who have already been accounted for, many people that are returned or people whose remains have been returned.

In addition, a hundred seventy-one reports were determined to be outright fabrication.

However, that leaves us with a hundred thirty-one unresolved cases which are still under active investigation.

I think I need to digress for a moment and discuss one aspect of the live sighting reports which is very important to keep in mind. Of that hundred thirty-one cases still under active investigation, fully half pertain to Caucasians sighted in other than the classic prisoner environment and it was not under guard but walking freely in the streets of Saigon or Hanoi living with Vietnamese and children.

In other words, not in a cage or in the class of a prisoner under guard and garment. We don't know for the most part who these people are. Clearly, the Vietnamese refugees saw a Caucasian. But did they see a Soviet Diplomat, a Soviet Advisor, a Frenchman who elected to stay behind, Missionaries, Western Businessman, Western Priest or whatever? We don't know and they don't know.

But the average Vietnamese sees a Caucasian and he doesn't understand the language the man is speaking and the vast majority of the reports of the Vietnamese have no indication that they spoke to the people or asked people who they were.

That is fully half of the live sighting reports.

The other half, however, pertain to people in the classic prisoner environment, sightings reported by Vietnamese refugees of again Caucasians, I assume to be Americans. Prisoner camps were sighted under guard.

We have at this moment a number of areas on a day-to-day basis—we have seventy-one such reports which is yet unresolved and they are continuing the investigation.

I would like to point out that these reports command a large period of time. Fully a third of them are before 1975, before the fall of Saigon. I guess, looking at it the other way, the reports, active, being worked on since 1980, now number only one report. One report still under active investigation since 1980. So the information is getting old.

However difficult these cases may prove to be, we make every possible attempt to verify the information. I have to emphasize that in all cases, they remain open. We don't ever close a case. Neither do we parlay any information which may generally be received.

There are many avenues of pursuit and we seek the assistance of other friendly governments in those activities in relationship with Vietnam.

We are grateful to a number of countries whose support they have provided us. We are grateful for the emphasis that they have been able to convey to the Vietnamese Government that it would be both wise and in the interest of the Vietnamese Government and the interest of humanity to cooperate with the United States in the resolution of the POW/MIA issue.

For several years, the Governments Association of Southeast Asia Nations and Asia had sought to convey to Hanoi the need to be more forthcoming to this issue and second, in general, the United Nations have been very helpful and the Foreign Minister of Australia in a recent visit to Hanoi, also spoke of our case to Hanoi and one statement was made in particular which was significant. In fact, it was an Indonesian Foreign Minister who made a strong presentation to Hanoi on our behalf this past spring.

Indeed, we should be grateful to all the other Nations for their active support of our efforts. The attitude of the Vietnamese Government is, of course, the single most important factor in resolving the fate of our missing men.

Hanoi has finally agreed to us that this should be a separate humanitarian issue and not linked to other matters which divided our two countries.

Hanoi has agreed to accelerate the cooperation in resolving this issue.

However, despite what is inherent, the progress is still slow. The repatriation of twenty-six remains and information with regard to six more is very welcome. As the Vietnamese state, they wish to resolve this issue within the next two years. We assume that they are serious in what they say. We are proceeding in that spirit and hope to hold the Vietnamese to that and hope to do it in the very near future.

Since 1981, in order to get where we are today, it has taken five meetings between the United States and Hanoi in either Hanoi or New York City, ten technical meetings in Hanoi and numerous additional sessions between the League of Families and the Vietnamese and also several trips by Congressional Delegations and scores of interventions by countries, and very importantly it has required the success of the public awareness program in which the VFW has been so involved.

Of course, not all our efforts are aimed at the Vietnamese. Over five hundred American servicemen are missing in action in Laos and we have a diplomatic relation in that country of Laos and after more than a decade of various governments, this past February, the United States was finally able to carry out the first evaluation of air craft sightings since 1973, and the Laos Government participated fully and the Americans who were involved were extremely impressed in the spirit of cooperation and professionalism displayed by the Laotians who allowed officials of the work parties to do all they could to see that the American excavations were successful.

We are highly gratified for that cooperation and we look forward to its continuance.

Just last month the Laos Government agreed to send a party to Hawaii for a simple identification to the laboratory to see how we go about identifying the remains. Very importantly, they have agreed to excavations on a second craft site this coming month and we appreciate the cooperation of the Laotian Government and the concrete demonstration of their intent continuing.

The process is one of which should be beneficial to us and the Laotians. The success of our public awareness efforts has generated our local host of POW/MIA's and individual operators for the most part but some of those have their own ideas on how to solve this problem, and many are through prescribed theory of Americans in locations waiting for rescue and there are some who are brave enough to do that themselves and feel that the American Government is somehow either not serious enough or not interested enough to go and get them.

If this were the case, ladies and gentleman, it would be simple. I would suggest to you that we could get the full measure of bravery and dedication in this room today and clarify this issue years ago. It isn't that easy. It isn't just a question of let's go and conduct a raid.

Only those who saw the movie Rambo recognize that before he went in and did his thing, he knew where the prisoners were. He had the critical intelligence required.

I would point out, I would merely reiterate the statement of the Vice President for the Convention of the League of Families in which he stated, "If we ever get reliable information as to the existence of the location of the American prisoners in Indochina," the Vice President stated, "we will act!"

We will—well, since all of us explicitly want a solution, we don't really want it to appear that the problems are in Washington instead of Hanoi, where the problem is generated by frustration and there is a lot of frustration in this business, believe me.

There is a danger that Hanoi will read into that a reason to delay responding to our efforts in hopes they can cut a better deal.

Special permission such as those being proposed have a substantive purpose in some issue, either in strategy or bipartisan support which is lacking and I suggest that neither is lacking in this particular case. This issue is institutionalized and dealt with on a daily basis with the highest priority of all levels of government.

Progress in the POW/MIA issue has been a long time and slowly coming and has been frustrating.

We intend to persevere however, in doing what must be done. Our greatest hope of success lies in the government efforts now being pursued under the commission established by our President. The approach is fully supported in the bipartisan basis of Congress, backed by the United Informed Citizens, and it is a powerful weapon for the Indochinese Government and I believe its success is evident in the recent limited progress achieved, but more importantly in the prospect for real progress in the foreseeable future.

I hope my remarks have been helpful to clarifying somewhat a very emotional and very confusing issue. It is a very difficult issue for all who are involved.

Let me assure you that those of us in the government who are responsible are attempting to resolve this issue and we will continue with the highest possible priority and unwavering dedication.

We seek you continued support.

In return for your continued support, we pledge we will do everything humanly possible in our power to get a full and complete accounting for all those who served our country so well in Indochina and who, as in the President's words, may still be serving those who are our comrades, and we owe them no less.

1986 BUDDY POPPY BOY

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron called Guy Taylor, President of the VFW National Home Board, to the podium to introduce the Executive Director of the Home and the 1986 Buddy Poppy Boy, Earl Grant Deterding.]

National Home President TAYLOR. Comrades, Commander-in-Chief, my fellow veterans and delegates to this National Convention: I appear today before a distinguished group of veterans from every state in the Union and overseas, as it is a fitting time for the declaration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Home of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Home.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars home is and continues to be a living demonstration of the love, care and concern of this organization's veterans for those survivors which includes first and foremost, the widows and children of those who gave the most man can give.

This morning the National Home Board calls attention to, and sincerely thanks Adjutant General Vander Clute of the VFW National staff for the outstanding articles about your home and your kids, at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and those articles that appear in the VFW Magazine. I thank the National Council Administration of this great organization for their trust and encouragement and support in the Seals program and I thank the delegates of this convention for sustaining the action of that council on the floor yesterday.

You will not be embarrassed by the confidence and trust you have placed in the Board of Trustees, and with your permission, I would like to recognize some of the fellow Board of Trustees who are comrades just like you and they are with us this morning in this meeting. And I would like for you to hold your applause, if you would be kind enough, until we introduce them all.

Minnesota Past National Commander, Bob Hansen.

Ohio Past Commander-in-Chief, John Wasylik.

From Louisiana, a graduate of the National Home, Bob Nickerson.

From the State of Kansas, Charles "Dusty" Cloud.

From the State of Michigan, Paul Savage.

From the State of Florida, a former resident of that National Home, John Carney.

And a Vietnam veteran serving on our Board and serving well, Stephen York.

They all join me in expressing their appreciation for these men.

I would like to introduce at this time the Executive Director of the National Home and then you are going to meet one of the guys here for the Buddy Poppy award and I told him coming in that he was just one of the fellows, and he will appreciate the great reception.

At this time I would like to introduce a gentleman who is no stranger to any of you, a gentlemen who came to us as the Executive Director of the National Home in 1980, who through the efforts, and we appreciate those efforts, of Adjutant General Vander Clute selecting and helping him, and he has been on the Board and done an admirable job and I would hope that you are as pleased with his efforts thus far as we have been; he's been on the Board of Trustees and I will call on him now to introduce some very important members of the staff, our Buddy Poppy boy, and bring a short message about the Home.

Doctor Ted Wilson, the Executive Director of the VFW National Home.

Executive Director Wilson. Commander-in-Chief, National Staff, distinguished delegates: It is an honor and a privilege for me to be here to address you and bring the greetings from the National Home from the children and staff.

I would like at this time to introduce to you several that have traveled with us, starting with the young lady, Sue Woodard, who has written some of the articles that have appeared in the magazine.

And over here, we have Joseph Epling, our secretary-treasurer in charge of the financial program.

And then the backbone of, really of what we are trying to do in our child care program. We could not do what we do without caring individuals such as the house parents, the child care staff, and we have a very dedicated lady, Bonnie Kyle, who works at the house with a number of the children.

Then there is the star of this show. I guess I messed up his speech the other day when I introduced him by giving his name because his name was the first thing in his speech. He would say, "My name is ——" and he got totally confused when I told you what his name was, so I am going to leave that to him, and I will say this is the spirit of the equal rights movement.

We finally have the boy poppy person, and I will also say that for the first time since I have been coming to the convention with the poppy person, I had to treat a bloody nose the other day. Somehow it doesn't happen with the girls that come.

He got rambunctious in the swimming pool and caught someone's head with his nose and at this time, I would like to introduce our Buddy Poppy boy.

Buddy Poppy Boy Earl Grant Deterding. I have enjoyed being here; thank you for making me the Buddy Poppy Boy.

Executive Director Wilson. I want to spend a few minutes telling you a little bit about the home. I was asked through the Board meeting in July to try to start getting a better picture, to try to get a picture of what we are doing at the home and who we are serving and I decided that I would do that, not by talking about things that are in our museum which we now have, and not by talking about the guest lodge, which we talked about plenty the other day, and I am not going to talk about the pressures of being a single parent and trying to raise children. And some of you know what that is about.

I am not going to talk about the union and how we are negotiating contracts. I am not going to talk about what we are going to do with the asbestos we found lying in the heating runs of the Community Center that we have to get corrected.

I am not going to tell you funny stories about what happens living at the National Home, and how occasionally we run into skunks when you're walking over the campus, and I'm not going to tell you about the sheep that get out of the farm.

I'm not going to tell you those things.

I am not going to talk about drugs and runaways and vandalism. You already know about those things. You live in the communities and they have those kind of problems and those experiences.

I am also not going to talk about finances, because you can come to our seminar and hear all those things and ask specific questions and we don't have a lot of time.

There are important things about the Home that I would like to talk about but I thought instead that I would not talk about those, I wouldn't even talk about why I decided to get involved as a member of the community on their school board of their chemical task force or in coaching soccer teams.

I am not going to talk about any of that. I kind of want to leave these for our seminar and you can ask specific questions and get specific answers.

And instead what I am going to do is, in the few minutes that I have got, tell you a short story about one of the people we serve. I think sometimes you don't understand who we are serving today.

I am going to talk about the juvenile delinquent. I am not going to talk about the young leukemia victim. I am not going to talk about the girl that just graduated that was named Female Athlete of the Year at her high school.

I am not going to talk about those kids whose mothers died and fathers died in a fire several years ago and who arrived at the Home since.

Instead I am going to talk about a girl I got to know because I am her legal guardian and she is at the Home and has been for fourteen years. She is a good lady, sixteen years old, one of six children who came to us from the State of Florida, some years ago, and she came when she was five. When she was three, her family experienced a tragedy. Her mother left with a boyfriend—that is not your normal situation perhaps, but she left the family by themselves with a father raising six children. The father had a problem. He drank a little bit too much and so he had a hard time raising that family.

Then something happened that caused that family to feel good. They received a letter from that young mother saying, "I am coming back; we are going to be a family again. You can pull those kids back into the house and not leave them out in foster home, and that sort of thing.

The family was happy. After she wrote the letter, that young lady was killed and murdered by her boyfriend.

That threw the family into a terrible state of depression. In fact, the father started drinking further and in fact, the family started breaking up a little more, going over to stay with relatives and friends and with foster families.

Then the older brother said, "I am going to get those kids back together. We are going to try to make it work again." He went and started picking up the kids. This girl was now five years old and she was at the trailer court when her brother came to pick her up. She witnessed the argument that lead to the fatal shooting of her brother.

She was five years old.

That kind of tipped things right into a big mess and they said, "Let's send these kids up the National Home," which they did.

Three months after four of the children came to the National Home, the father, who had been drinking more and more heavily, also died. So over the span of years, this five year old experienced the death of three very important people and she found herself in the National Home trying to portray a normal life and I suppose, you know, you look at your backgrounds and know the families we are dealing with and they are not all in this kind of situation.

When this young girl came there it took her the next ten years of growing up to realize even when you are at the National Home it's not always hunky-dory. We still have problems.

She experienced a series of house parents, not all the people had stayed for years and years, and she went through ten house parents in ten years. You can imagine what happened to her inside when you keep experiencing that sort of thing.

Initially you believe people are leaving because they just don't care. Eventually you start believing that they are leaving because of you, because of who you are, and eventually you start doing things that help them to leave.

So, we get a situation where we have young people, one young lady, who somehow is struggling to keep her life as it has been presented to her, as it is being played out to her and as people around her are trying to be involved with her.

She is an A-B student; she is a star athlete. She also shoplifts, she also lies. She is also, every now and then, experimenting with amphetamines because she is depressed, and she doesn't know how to deal.

This one young lady, sixteen years old, two years from graduating, now lives with my family and I can tell you right now, the kind of experience people go through caring for other peoples' children, because I got a phone call the other night from my wife, crying, because that young girl is pushing our family to the wall, to help deal with her pain.

That is what we are dealing with at the National Home; families, human people, real people dealing with real people, and it's not simple. It's not just a snap of the fingers to make things work better.

We don't know of any magic fairies, no wonderful magic wand that we can wave across the air at the National Home. We are simply real people, dedicated to doing the best we can do to help children and families grow up.

With the help of people like yourself, and with God's help, I think we are doing a heck of a job.

Sometimes what we do works, and sometimes what we do doesn't work.

The essence of what we are talking about, again is real people, backed by real people, such as yourselves, helping others who need help to grow up. When it works, it's beautiful.

Three months ago, we hired back, as house parents, two children, two people that had grown up in the Home, a man and a wife, a young couple.

The girl had grown up as a member of a family with her mother there at the Home and the boy had grown up in the other program. They had met and become boyfriend and girlfriend and the boy had decided he couldn't handle it anymore and he left on a bicycle and took his TV with him. He thought that was a pretty good way of dealing with this. He left.

Then he came back three years ago. They met at a reunion and fell in love and got married and they decided they were going to commit themselves to raising children at the National Home.

Those kind of stories happen. Those are real stories, and those are wonderful stories. They say something to you who have put your time and your dollars and your support and your energy behind the National Home because you care about what happens to children, and you want to try to make a difference.

We are trying to make a difference. We appreciate the support we get; we appreciate the understanding you give us. We will tell you straight out that we have problems and we will tell you straight out that we don't have all the answers.

We do the best we can and we think we are doing a very good job with the people like I have before you today, a Board of Trustees that is working extremely hard to plan for today and look ahead into the future.

I thank you for your support and it is a pleasure to come before you and I invite any of you that can come to the seminar this afternoon where we can get into more specific questions. I know you have them, you will be asking questions all week and I encourage you to do that.

In the meantime, we would just like to say, we've enjoyed talking with you; please stop by the seminar and if you can come up to Eaton Rapids Campus, do so.

COMPLETION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE

Veterans Service Committee Chairman CARR. Comrades: We will now go into the resolutions which the committee recommended be rejected. I will read the numbers only.

602, rejected in favor of 648.
605, rejected in favor of 649.
606, rejected.
610, rejected in favor of 748.
621, rejected in favor of 709.

622, rejected in favor of 623.
623, rejected in favor of 654.
632, rejected.
634, rejected in favor of 708.
636, rejected in favor of 649.
639, rejected in favor of 770.
640, rejected since it is already covered by VA regulations.
642, rejected since it takes veteran benefits away from widows.
644, rejected for 751.
645, rejected since it grants favor to a special interest group.
646, rejected since it would shift dollars from the medical care budget only.
647, rejected as unmanageable.
650, rejected in favor of 607.
651, rejected as too ambiguous.
652, rejected for 618.
655, rejected for 607.
656, rejected for 615.
657, rejected for 669.
658, rejected for 771.
659, rejected since compliance options are currently available to the state.
660, rejected for 697.
663, rejected for 662.
664, rejected for 661.
665, rejected for 708.
666, rejected for 695.
667, rejected for 771.
668, rejected for 771.
670, rejected for 669.
671, rejected for 768.
676, rejected for 669.
677, rejected for 613.
679, rejected for 695.
682, rejected for 611.
689, rejected as a special interest only.
690, rejected since it would broaden the scope of beneficiaries and thus be cost prohibitive.
691, rejected since both military and private sectors have their own recognition program.
693, rejected for 708.
696, rejected for 770.
701, rejected for 725.
704, rejected for 612.
706, rejected since it was contrary to the Constitution.
707, rejected for 695.
711, rejected since medical doctors already provide the service.
712, rejected for 678.
713, rejected for 735.
714, rejected for 669.
715, rejected as a local issue.
716, rejected because of ambiguity. Constituting only a local issue.
718, rejected since it would have a negative impact on all VA medical budgets.
720, rejected for 601.
721, rejected for 733.
722, rejected for 735.
723, rejected for 672.
727, rejected since it already is permissible.
728, rejected for 769.
730, rejected as not being feasible.
753, rejected since veterans preference currently provided by law, general aptitude test battery, measures vocation aptitude or ability to perform a specific job.
755, rejected since it's already covered under VA and DOD regulations.
756, rejected since it's already covered under VA and DOD regulations.
758, rejected for 654.
759, rejected for 695.
760, rejected for 613.
761, rejected for 768.
762, rejected for 613.

763, rejected for 607.

766, rejected since it would remove all control over fee basic health care and may lead to mainstreaming.

772, rejected since it does not reflect the entire membership.

782, rejected as inoperative and inappropriate.

I am told I missed some resolutions.

731, rejected for 615.

732, rejected for 613.

734, rejected as not being in proper form.

736, rejected for 612.

739, rejected as containing only special interest issues.

740, rejected since it would violate state rights in reference to gambling laws.

741, rejected for 748.

742, rejected for 638.

743, rejected for 770.

749, rejected. It retirees meet the eligibility requirements, they have established entitlement to these services.

750, rejected since it will increase insurance premiums and will cause additional administrative costs to VA, where monies would be better spent on direct care and treatment programs.

In addition, any money elected from the insurance is placed in the general revenue funds and no return to the VA or medical facility that provides the care.

752, rejected for 613.

Those are the resolutions that the committee recommends be rejected.

Requests were made by Convention delegates that Resolutions 606, 664, 632 and 739 be set aside.

Veterans Service Committee Chairman Carr. I made one mistake that has been pointed out to me and I hope that is the only one.

658 was rejected in favor of 771 and not 651 as I said.

I am told that I didn't read 717 and I think I did but this is just in case I didn't, I will do it again. 717 was recommended for approval.

[On motion duly made and seconded, the Convention voted to adopt the Committees' recommendation to approve Resolution 717.]

Convention Delegate Burns. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: John Burns, 2097, Connecticut, Legislative Chairman, I make a motion to adopt Resolution 606.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Do I have a second?

Convention Delegate Romano. Post 7330, Connecticut, seconds the motion.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Okay. It's open for discussion and I will recognize mike 2.

Convention Delegate Burns. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I disagree with the committee's findings when they have stated that due to a recent Supreme Court decision that they have rejected 606.

We have approved, at this time, just minutes ago Resolution 607, Judicial Review.

I want to read the resolve of that resolution which we just passed because it is directly connected to 606.

"*Be it resolved* by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we reaffirm once again support for legislation which would provide judicial review in appropriate U.S. District Courts of benefit claims decisions concerning questions of law and regulation."

We will tell the Congress and all the Veterans of this country that we do want you to have the right and privilege to go to court, but in 607 we are saying you cannot pay more than ten dollars for it? I think if this Convention was to support the committee's report, it would be ludicrous.

The decision making of the Veterans Administration is the only agency of this government that is not subject to court review.

Social Security recipients and all others granted benefits under Federal law have a right to challenge, in a court of law, wrongful decisions made by representatives or respective federal agencies with representation by an attorney of their choice.

Convicted rapists, murderers and thieves are afforded the right of an attorney, yet the veterans are denied an attorney when it affects the health and lives and the property of the veterans involved. And the Veterans Administration can take an attorney—if they create an error in their fault and in their payments of the veterans, they can take that veteran to court and they can take and hire a collection agency or attorneys to prosecute you and I as veterans.

The Congress turned away Judicial review of the veterans' claims. Judicial review and the rights of any attorney are two of the most important checks and balances of the Constitution.

It is an accepted hypothesis that individuals can turn out a higher quality defense for themselves when it is possible and there is the existence of such help and it may be scrutinized by a higher authority.

The founding fathers throughout the constitution intended that all American citizens, especially injured in the defense, be afforded equal justice, and it is indeed wrong that those who have given the most to their country are those that have the courts closed to them.

They are totally without redress and the existing provisions of Section 3404 of the United States Code 38 prohibits paying more than ten dollars for a fee with the possibility of getting a lawyer who will take that fee and for the two years you will spend in a Federal prison.

It just seems to be ludicrous that on one hand we can approve a resolution saying we want our veterans to have a right to go to court and on the other hand we only allow ten dollars.

In summation, the same as before, what we are saying here is we are going to send an infantry man into combat with a rifle but we are not going to give him any bullets. We are going to send a submarine into combat without torpedoes.

How can we say to a veteran that you can go to the Supreme Court and the Federal Court with only a ten dollar fee for attorneys? An attorney wouldn't take you. A parking ticket would cost you more than ten dollars.

Thank you very much.

Veterans Service Committee Chairman **Carr**. I am not going to talk on that; I am just going to ask either Don Schwab or the chairman who have the expertise to talk. I don't hold myself out as having the expertise and I feel that those handling veterans' claims do. But I will only point out, of course, you are all aware that the Supreme Court simply upheld the statute of the ten dollar attorney fee and that's the only comment I have.

Actually, I am going to ask Don Schwab to explain.

DON SCHWAB. We rejected it on the basis of the recent Supreme Court decision that was upheld on the ten dollar attorney fee. On the other side of the coin, Judicial review legislation in the past in the 96th, 97th and 98th Congress reported favorably by the Veterans Affairs Committee and the legislation before the Congress authorizes Judicial review and also calls for reasonable attorney fees.

This legislation died in the House of Representatives during the last three Congresses and they will do the same in this Congress.

No matter what side of the argument you take down here on the floor, the fact remains that if we ever get to Judicial review, we are going to have reasonable attorney fees because they know that no attorney will represent a client in court for ten dollars.

I hope I have cleared the situation up.

Convention DELEGATE. O'Neill, delegate, VFW Post 147, Department of Michigan. I speak in favor of the rejection, of upholding the committee's recommendation. Our good National Legislative Director made the remark on the judicial review and I want to expand on it and point out, originally our Veterans of Foreign Wars was on record, at one time, supporting an error in fact, and allowed an elimination of a benefit and the National Convention made an agreement that brought it fair and in fact, we felt, was in the structure of the VA. You could add and process law for a veteran and even though the area of law is going to be very minimal, it addresses the Senate. 330 would make provisions for proper fees to attorneys.

Let's take 606, the attorney fee.

A few moments ago the comment was that the ten dollar fee was unconstitutional and violated the fifth amendment. But now, the Supreme Court decided on June 28, 1985, that the lack of attorney participation and present benefit claims procedure did not violate the fifth amendment, due process laws, nor did the fee violate or limit veterans from going to Court.

We should deal with 606 and I should point out that when the Congressmen several years ago put in the ten dollar attorney fee, at that time because attorneys were ripping off Civil War veterans, the fee should be established for that purpose and further, Congress intended that we keep within VA proceedings informal and non-adversary [illegible]les.

The feeling is we don't want the money to go to the attorney, but the veteran himself, who is sacrificing and earned that money.

And I further feel that the Congress has realized that the veterans organizations have trained service officers who have the expertise to represent the veteran. And if there's any question about this, as far as value is concerned, the VASA has helped with eight hundred thousand cases and eighty-six percent of that group have a service representative.

So it certainly speaks that the people feel we are qualified to represent them. So I urge the delegates that the Supreme Court has so ruled and it is a feeling of the service officers throughout this country that we can adequately represent your claims and those we serve so we ask you to reject 606.

Convention Delegate. Evelyn Shoenfeld, Post 5888: Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I speak in favor of the Resolution. The technicalities have been eloquently set out so I'm not going into it but I feel that the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been an advocate group and if some members want to hire a private attorney, then they should have the right to do so. So regardless of the Supreme Court decision, we should put ourselves on record as favoring any member's right to pay attorney fees so he can provide representation.

This is not to take away from any other kind of advocacy but we have to advocate every right for the veteran we can, and a ten dollar fee fails on the veterans with this right.

Convention Delegate. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: To clarify the issue of the Supreme Court decision, I have before me a document of the 99th Congress, Veterans of Administrations Judicial Procedure and Judicial Review and the article permits the United States Senate Affairs, dated July 8, 1985, to review it and I came here today to show you that it refers to the Supreme Court decision and I just read one short paragraph to clarify that.

It says that the decision in this case, therefore, does not remove the cloud that has been cast regarding the constitutional validity of Section 3404(c) and the Committee believes that the existence of this continuing controversy underscored the need for Congressional action to remove the fee limitations.

The Court is not only strengthened by the decision or sustaining it but they do not have the authority to make the type of adjustments that the Committee is recommending which would be the Committee's belief, both reflects sound positive judgment and eliminates questions regarding constitutional validity.

This could go on and on but in summary the law has to be changed in Congress. Congress is looking for direction from the Veterans Administration, and I am a service officer and I know of other service representatives and credited representatives that have appeared before the Veterans Appeals on five hundred cases, and I know from where I speak that service officers' hands are tied. We cannot go to Federal Court.

That page of this rule will enhance the VFW's position and enhance the respectability of the service offices throughout the country.

Attorneys will come to the VFW for guidance and assistance in preparing claims.

I urge you to vote in favor of the 606 resolution.

Convention Delegate. Allen Jones, Post 21, Pennsylvania: I am somewhat appalled when I listen to the objections to accept the recommendation of those that would like to have this passed. I am speaking in favor of the resolution.

I wonder how long we can be so naive as to recognize what constitutes the statutes rightly in the constitution and I am referring to, certainly, the parts that have outlived its life. As far as revenues are concerned today, when that was structured, we were talking about our forefathers and a ten dollar bill would buy a lot more back in those days. I don't believe any veteran here today is so naive that he would be asked to go out in a town and get an attorney or ask an attorney how much he could buy for ten dollars and figure he could get very much.

I think the veterans of this convention should take into consideration that we are representing two million veterans and we are going to have to come back and stand up to them when they say we still approve that defense is only worth ten dollars. It's something vital to the widows or orphans and veterans today and you should take a better look at what direction we are going.

I hope that the veterans here and those representing the constituents will vote in favor of this resolution.

Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. I will recognize Mike 2.

Convention DELEGATE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: Gene Manfrey, Past Department Commander, 6827. Comrades, Commander-in-Chief, I am an employee of the Veterans Administration and have been employed for the past twenty years. I have represented many veterans on many cases. I also feel as an employee of the Veterans Administration I am speaking against this resolution and I hope it is rejected.

Those whose entitlements are service connected do not need an attorney who is going to charge you an exorbitant fee to prove eligibility for compensation.

Your service medical records will identify that for you. You have very capable service officers in this organization and it is at a time when we don't have a service officer that the Veterans Administration provides the consultant to represent you as I have many times and I will many times more.

The officers of this organization are not going to bar me from going to the Veterans Administration. I can see and you can see today that now the attorneys are publicizing and chasing ambulances, if you please, and asking for all of the lines of attorneys fees that they can get, and I can see they are coming to the Veterans Administration and why would you want to pay five hundred dollars when you could have a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars under the service organization go up to the proper authority and take care of your case for you and get it for nothing?

Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Are there any others? Frank, will you explain where we are?

Parliamentarian HAHN. Comrades, Commander-in-Chief: You have before you a motion on the floor to adopt Resolution 606, dealing with the ten dollar attorney fee. The Committee has recommended disapproval. In the discussion there was reference to Resolution 607, Judicial Review and I believe that this is not quite the same thing.

The Convention approved the Judicial review which is merely a resolution dealing with the time after it gets out of the VA. In order to review the matter, the ten dollar fee applies to the attorney who would be practicing before the VA representative of a veteran's rights, and of course, the argument deals with that. And it is really directed to 606.

Therefore, if you vote in favor of the motion you are approving the idea of withdrawing the ten dollar fee.

If you vote against, you are supporting the committee's action recommending disapproval.

[The motion to adopt Resolution was put to a vote and was defeated. The chair declared Resolution 606 disapproved.]

Convention **Delegate**. Commander-in-Chief: Bill Pierce, Post 9845, Germany: I make a motion that the Convention adopt Resolution 932 with reference to Postal Privileges For Box R Patrons.

Convention **Delegate**. Bobby Black, Post 9659, The Department of Germany, Past Commander seconds the motion.

Convention **Delegate**. Commander-in-Chief, Bill Pierce, Post 9845, Germany. I wrote the resolution some six years ago and the reason why the Department of Defense set up the rejection of fifteen pounds for box patrons at that time was because of this, what you have now, because of the problems that were in existence and the Department of Defense decided to withdraw the privilege for the retirees on Box R to get in excess of fifteen pounds. Prior to that it was sixty pounds. Fifteen pounds and it was once sixty-five pounds. Commander-in-Chief, I am a Past Department Commander and an Adjutant and I say they can't work on fifteen ounces of mail; that's not very much mail, international mail, going some place and that's just not mail to me. There is too much mail.

I just don't understand it. What we have done in Germany, we wrote to the Congressman in reference to this in 1978 and he sent back a form letter that talks about—because they felt that fifteen ounces was plenty, we don't need anymore.

So then we went to the Commander-in-Chief, Europe, and he appointed an investigation of officers to check this out.

The military posts service were accepting that going back to sixty-five pounds. So, the United States Army in Europe wrote a letter to the Department of Army directing approval of going back to sixty pounds. The Department recommended to going back to sixty pounds and they disapproved it, and in 1980 I wrote a resolution to the delegates of that convention in Chicago, Illinois, and at that time, it was approved.

Since that time it has been turned down both times in a row. So this May last—not last but since 1979, we have been on the floor and to me that's ridiculous that I have to get mail through a second party.

Of course, I wrote to the National and I was told by the Commander that maybe it would be a simpler resolution to get somebody else to do it.

Convention **Delegate**. Nelson Ballew, VFW Post 5080, Great State of Georgia. I rise to support the committee and its recommendation for rejection of 632. The reason our committee recommended rejection of this was it only applies to those retirees who reside in Germany. It does not apply to us as veterans.

If you go over to visit Germany, we would still be restricted to the German law and the mail use of the German postage to move anything back to the States and we feel this is definitely a special interest group and we should not support any resolution which takes care of special interest groups.

Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief **Cameron**. I will recognize microphone 2.

Convention **Delegate**. Commander-in-Chief, Post 3966, Texas, formerly Post 3988, Germany, Past Commander, Department of Germany. Okay, I am an active military and have been active military and have now come back to the States but I know about a lot of the Germans and the retired vets that we have in Germany and it's not just Germany but across the world anywhere. We have a Box R mail box and one thing that you people here in the States probably are not aware of, but in the last year, in Germany, the DOD has gone to free mail within the country.

This does not assist the United States Postal Service getting mail to us in Germany.

Within our Posts in Germany, if we are not Box R patrons, we can receive any amount of mail we want to receive.

What you are calling a special interest group, I say, I will be one of them. I will be a retiree in the next eight months. Does that make me a special interest group? I don't believe so. I believe what we are saying here is that because this individual desires to retire in Germany and not in San Antonio or any place here in the United States, you are separating him. I disagree and I am in favor of passing this resolution.

Convention Delegate BURNS. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: John Burns, 2097, Connecticut. I rise in support of the resolution. There are many merits to the resolution being discussed and I just think this organization should be consistent. We sent a message to the Postal Service in Congress last year supporting this resolution and for us to change mid-stream, seems difficult and some of the problems we heard yesterday from those endorsements on the PAC that were given away, how can we endorse one year and take it away from the people in Germany?

We should be consistent with out policies and that is the most important thing. If we don't get that message across—I think it's very important. This certainly is a special interest group.

We saw 606 defeated because of being a special interest group. Our service organization and our protection and they protect our interests, how can we say they are only protecting the special interests when we should protect each others interests? I support the resolution.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. I will recognize microphone 2.

Convention DELEGATE. Romano, 7330, Connecticut. I heartily endorse our good comrades from Germany in trying to get this through. They are a special interest group. Every single state in this country is represented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and they are special interest groups. If we don't concern ourselves with the problems in Germany, we can't very well solve the problems in the Far East or anywhere else.

They are certainly a group that have privilege, the privilege that I think the Girl Scouts have, the Boy Scouts and other groups in Germany have privileges.

I don't see why the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with the group in Germany should not have the same privilege.

I feel that we should endorse this resolution and support our comrades in Germany.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. I will recognize microphone two.

Convention DELEGATE. Post 6843, Minnesota. These gentlemen earned their money serving the Armed Forces of the United States. They are tax payers and this is tax payers money, and they are retired in Germany and they are spending tax payers money from the United States overseas. What is wrong with supporting the economy in the United States? I say we should go with the committee's recommendation to reject this proposal.

Convention **Delegate**. George Seidle, Post 3420, Department of Delaware. I understand that these people are only allowed fifteen ounces of mail; for what? A year?

Commander-in-Chief **Cameron**. In each package.

Convention **Delegate**. Then that many said that—the Post Commander, Department Commander, the Department Adjutant, that they would be happy to fall in that category but they cannot receive some of the mail from National because of those packages that are heavier than that and at one time National's communications to the Post Adjutant were to get together with the commander and they quit that because of the transfer available from one person to another and now they want to do it in Germany and that doesn't make sense.

Convention **Delegate**. Jean Bingham. I had to get retired and I served and also, when I go to the bank, it takes me three hours to travel twenty-five miles to get my mail but I don't mind it. At least I can get some mail, and again, as they have specified, we can only get fifteen ounces and we have a Post Commander and District Commander and I will tell you, you people said, not necessarily to me directly but from the National Headquarters, God Bless You, but you send it air mail to my address and I do get it but—thank you—but to save money for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, it would help if we would get this passed.

Commander-in-Chief **Cameron**. Thank you.

Convention **Delegate**. I would like to say this much, that we might be overseas, living overseas and this is true, but we do a lot of community activities and extend a diplomatic relationship with the country we live in.

Thank you sir.

Commander-in-Chief **Cameron**. I will recognize microphone 3.

Convention **Delegate**. Comrades: Post 471 from the Great City of the World, Washington, D.C., the most popular city in the world, Washington, D.C. Comrades, I have been stationed in Vietnam and Taipai. We have received projects for various countries in the world. We have spent millions of dollars in transport and what is so great about approving a sixty or sixty-five pound maximum for a retiree who has fought for this country? We have spent millions, probably billions of dollars for transportation of these projects and I urge for the approval of 632.

[The motion to approve Resolution 632 was put to a vote. The Chair declared the motion adopted and Resolution 632 approved.]

Convention Delegate **Burns**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I rise to disagree with the findings of the committee and the reason for rejection of Resolution 644 and make a motion for the adoption of Resolution 664.

[The motion was seconded by Dominic Romano, Post 7330, Connecticut.]

Convention Delegate **Burns**. Post 2097, Connecticut. The reason the committee gave for the rejection of Resolution 664 was because it was covered in Resolution 661. I disagree.

Resolution 661 recommended that the Congress amend Title 38 to include a longer period of time for the Vietnam War.

Resolution 664 provides for VA benefits for those who received the Armed Forces and the Navy and Marine Corps expeditionary medals. Section 101 of Title 38 grants special VA benefits to the recipients of expeditionary medals by Mexican border vets but precludes the VA non-service benefits and other VA benefits for others who have received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

All Resolution Number 664 states in essence is that, let's treat all recipients of the Armed Forces medal in the same manner.

It's a technical issue, and I think someone from our National Office should clarify whether or not this resolution merits adoption.

National Legislative Director **Schwab**. I think that Comrade Burns has pointed out that the committee made an error in rejecting Resolution 664 and it should be adopted. I think we should vote in favor of passing the resolution.

[The motion to approve Resolution 664 was put to a vote and the Chair announced the motion adopted and Resolution 664 approved.

[A motion was duly made and seconded by State Commander DiLoretto, of the Department of Pennsylvania, to adopt Resolution 739 "Recognize the Woman Who Served in the Vietnam War."]

Convention Delegate **Diane Carlson Evans**. Wisconsin. Commander-in-Chief, the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project was organized in 1984 as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Minnesota. Our purpose is to erect a momument to depict a woman veteran of the Vietnam War, in proximity to the monument and wall and the three fighting men which currently are the National Memorial to the Vietnam veterans in Washington, D.C.

I stand before you today to share with you, and like those women before me and thousands of women besides me who have cared enough for our nation to join the Armed Services and volunteer for duty on foreign soil, and that we support the men in our Armed Forces and serve beside them, whether this be as a pilot, nurse, traffic controller or anesthetist or administrative duty, supply or finance.

The purpose of this project is to acknowledge and honor all these women who served in varying occupations during the Vietnam War.

To represent every one of these women with one artistic symbol would be impossible. We must state a true and honorable representation symbolizing those who care and served.

The Vietnam Women's Project has done this in good faith.

A motion was made by Wisconsin State Commander Gascoigne that the statue represents the honor of all women in every branch of military service. This statue is a composite of ideals for which all women perform the duty and aid and support an it is intended to instill pride in our nation's women veterans.

We are educating our nation that women have witnessed, first hand, the horrors of conflicts and made the ultimate sacrifice to their country.

This monument is intended to compliment and complete the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The three fighting men representing all men who suffered or served in Vietnam, stand to the left of the wall. We want our statue to stand to the right where she will be watching over the names of the men and women who died and the three fighting men.

She would complete the triangle and the statue would be in scale and size and form to the Frederick Hart statue.

My co-chairman Donna Bonlay and I have been to the White House twice, by their invitation, to inform them of our projects and our goals. Our national fund raising efforts have already begun. We have regional coordinators throughout the nation who take one of our three inch bronze statues to exhibit in our fund raising campaigns and our statue has been on display in California, New Orleans, New York, Florida, Washington, Illinois, Idaho, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and in the State of Texas.

We have women veterans across the nation awaiting the result of the action of the VFW on this memorial.

The deepest meaning in the statue is that women worked out in the field, not for themselves but for the survival of others. Whether that survivor was a woman or a woman working for the support of women or a medical person but we as women were care givers in doing what it took to bring the troops home safely.

The nurse statue does represent us all as being a care giver in the purest and most honorable sense. Women, whether nurse, secretary, or navigator, have always been there in every war to help and they always will be.

This is an age of awareness for women in America. For those women who served in the military, we need to look at where they have been, who they are, and where they are going.

When you leave this convention this week you will reflect that you have questioned this memorial, that you have doubted, that you have fought it, that you supported, that you wanted to change it, that you have questioned why women from previous wars have not been honored, that you have not perhaps thought about the women who served beside you in your war and have a special place in your heart and you will reflect on what I have got to share with you today.

That I fought in Vietnam, not with a weapon but I fought in combat zones for young men's lives in the Surgical and Burn Unit.

There was someone's son who died in my arms. It left a scar that has taken years to heal.

When women veterans are given respect and recognition for their beliefs and their contributions, their strength will come through the healing process that dictates.

Wounds heal, when wounds get the attention they deserve.

I have sensed this week that many of the women of World War II or the Korean War do feel wounded in the sense they have not been recognized as they should have been.

I know how they feel because it has been fifteen years for myself realizing that we, Vietnam Veteran women, have always been forgotten.

When I attended the Memorial Day service in my home town in Minnesota, the speaker thanked the males who served in Vietnam. There was no one thanking them more than myself or who looked up to them more than myself or were more looked up to than the Vietnam veteran because I know what they went through and I saw the courage that they had. But I left that memorial service wounded and I buried my pride.

Women can have great strength in this organization; that is only something to look forward to, my friend, not fear, because military women have the experiences and sensitivities and expertise and the skills and a sense of duty to our country that is not found anywhere in a civilian sector.

You have potential for your women in this organization. Women who have served on foreign soils, we share your pain; we share your experiences and we share your doubts and your dreams and we share your dedication. For we too, are Veterans of Foreign Wars. We are not special interest groups, We are veterans.

To support a memorial for veterans of one more period is to make a statement that we are recognizing veterans, specifically for their contributions, as a specific star of our country to support a memorial for other women veterans and make a statement to America that we finally acknowledge their service and include women in the National Monument to Veterans.

They give our country a legacy of healing and hope.

Comrades, by honoring these women of the Vietnam era, we as an organization are honoring ourselves.

I encourage y to adopt this resolution.

[After lengthy discussion, pro and con, the vote was called for. The chair, being in doubt after a voice vote called for a standing vote, following which the chair stated that the motion to approve Resolution 739 was defeated.]

PRESENTATION OF THE CHAPEL OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS CERTIFICATE TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BILLY RAY CAMERON

(By Past National Chaplain Henry Reinewald)

Past National Chaplain **REINEWALD**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: I come this morning as a representative of the Chapel of Four Chaplains in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Chapel of Four Chaplains was instituted in recognition of the services of the Chaplain, Jewish Rabbi, Roman Catholic Priest, and others who were honored on the 3rd day of February, 1943, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty and this is in memory of those chaplains.

I am honored and pleased to present this Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Membership to our Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron. This citation reads as follows:

> "The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Membership presented to Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief, VFW 1984-85, by the Chapel of Four Chaplains, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
>
> "In recognition of service to all people, regardless of race or faith.
>
> "This membership symbolizes for all Americans and for all time the unity of this Nation, founded upon the Fatherhood of One God."

Signed by Dr. James Eric Pierce, Chaplain. The seal of the Chapel thereon. Dated August 22, 1985.

Also a copy of "Saga of the Four Chaplains" by Margaret E. Sangster, presented by Reverend Henry L. Reinewald, Past National Chaplain, VFW, representative of the Chapel of Four Chaplains, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Thank you very much.

Comrade Koch. Stars and Stripes, World War I, Post 1415, Cleveland, Ohio. I believe for the last twenty-five or thirty years I have been privileged to present a motion on the convention floor each year and when I make this motion I feel more gratitude about it and more assured that I am right in belonging to this organization and I have for fifty-two years and you might have noticed me, comrades, and I thank the Sergeant-at-Arms and the great staff and you have probably noticed the public recognition in the Department and you've noted how Howard Vander Clute has done such a great job and the entire staff and the Commander-in-Chief and his staff and what all they went through conducting themselves in an excellent fashion.

As a delegate, I feel again, as old as I am, that I should ask the entire assembly to support my motion.

My motion is that we stand in tribute and move that the highest praise be given to our Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff and our retired Sergeant-at-Arms and the Headquarters staff of the National Organization, because my Comrades, I have had the honor of going to National and going through the Headquarters and let me tell you, when you go through there, you come out and you know that the veteran members are better persons because of the access and the way they perform and the duty that they perform and you have seen them throughout the years in the committees and again this year and they always have and they continue to do a great job anyway.

I move, Comrades, and go on record, that we support and give a vote of thanks and appreciation to the entire National Organization Staff and the Sergeant-at-Arms and likewise for the great National Organization working for us and let me say to you, my Comrades, let's give it a thousand percent, and let's have a second to my motion.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Thank you Chester. Is there a second?

Convention Delegate. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: Nick Vannicelli, Ohio, Post 495, seconds the motion.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Is there any discussion?

All in favor, aye.

Convention Delegates. Opposed, no.

The ayes have it. Let's have a rising vote of thanks.

NOMINATIONS

Nomination for the Office of Commander-in-Chief

(By Robert Hansen, Past Commander-in-Chief)

Past Commander-in-Chief Hansen. For eighty-six years the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been blessed with the finest type of leadership. The men who have served as our Commanders-in-Chief have dedicated themselves to the welfare of our beloved country, the well being of those valiant men and women who have served her and their dependents and survivors.

Those who have served our organization have been men of such stature and such high caliber as to be at home in any environment. They can meet with Presidents and Kings or with the humblest of men with equal ease. They have possessed that rare quality of leadership that some call charisma. None of those who have served as our Commanders-in-Chief have ever forgotten those who elected them to the highest office in our organization, you the member.

Such a man is our present Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, John S. Staum. I can speak with personal knowledge of the man and the office to which I am nominating him, that of Commander-in-Chief.

John Staum has served this organization in every way since 1957 when he first joined Post 9625 in Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

He was elected to two terms as Commander of Post 9625 after serving in various other offices in his Post. He was elected District Commander in 1966 and was Commander of the Department of Minnesota in 1970-71. That year he earned all American honors. For the next twelve years John Staum served on the Voice of Democracy, Safety, National Security and Foreign Affairs and Community Activities Committees.

When the VFW held its National Convention in Minneapolis in 1972 and 1977, much of the success was due to his efforts, for he was Chairman of the National Convention Corporation.

In 1984, John Staum was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief following his successful year as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, the office to which he was elected in 1983 by the 84th National Convention.

As you know, I am a Past Commander-in-Chief. I also am from Minnesota, the home state of John Staum. I have known him for many years. I have worked closely with him. Never has he hesitated to do whatever he was asked to do that was in the best interest of the VFW. He is gracious, understanding and highly competent.

John Staum will bring to the Veterans of Foreign Wars broad experience in the field of business. He spent many years operating his own company, the Glenmar Company, a subcontracting and building supply firm in Minneapolis.

It goes without saying that this member of the VFW has already proved his devotion to his country by his military service. John Staum took it a step further. Rather than continue his pre-seminary studies at St. Olaf's College in Northfield, Minnesota, he turned down his draft deferment and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps for service during the Korean War.

He and his wife, Bernadette, have two children, Mark, also a Marine veteran, and Nancy and one grandchild, Lindsey.

It is with personal pride and deep privilege that I say to you that I never in my wildest dreams ever imagined that I would someday be placing in nomination for this high office a person, whom twenty-eight years ago it was my personal pleasure to give the oath of obligation to as a new member of Coon Rapids Post 9625, and probably this is a first in the history of the VFW.

So, therefore, I am extremely proud to present to you on behalf of Coon Rapids Post 9625, the 7th District of Minnesota, the Department of Minnesota, the Big Ten Conference, myself and the entire organization and lastly and the most important on behalf of his lovely wife, Bernadette, and his entire family, the name of John Staum in nomination for Commander-in-Chief of our great organization.

Under his leadership, I am confident that the Veterans of Foreign Wars will Reach New Horizons.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. I will call for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

Minnesota Past Department Commander ALCUIN LOEHR. Post 3837, St. Cloud, Minnesota, Al Loehr: All members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States: What a tremendous privilege it is for me personally and on behalf of the distinguished leaders of Minnesota to stand before this convention and second a nomination for John Staum for Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

With your indulgence, Comrades, I also bring with this second the names of the political leaders of Minnesota who have asked that I include their names in seconding the nomination of J.S. Staum.

I speak of Governor Perpich of Minnesota; the House of Representatives, Dave Jennings; the Majority Leader, Connie Levi; Minority Leader, Fred Norton; and the State Senate Majority Leader, Roger Moe; and the Minority Leader, Glen Taylor, who have asked, John, that I include their names for the record on your nomination today as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

They express their deep gratitude for your wonderful leadership in the past and for your concern for their fellow veterans and their dependents.

And they would like you to carry that great image of our organization forward, around the world and in this country.

John, we look forward to you and we want you to come back to Minnesota to receive the proper accolade that you deserve as a great leader of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

My comrades, with all humility in my command, I say on behalf of all Minnesotians, thank you for the leadership of John Staum, Veterans of Foreign Wars, thank you very much.

Minnesota State Commander PAT BOHMER. At this time I would like to extend the hand of comradeship to John Staum and present him the delegation of Minnesota and say that on behalf of forty eight thousand four hundred sixty members, I wholeheartedly second the nomination of John Staum.

NOMINATION FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

(By Darrell Bencken, Commander, Department of Kansas)

Commander BENCKEN. Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, National Officers and delegates to this 86th National Convention: I am Darrell Bencken, Commander of the Department of Kansas. I truly am honored to come before you to place in nomination a long time personal friend and an outstanding member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and a life member of Russell Post No. 6240 of the great Department of Kansas and the Western Conference.

Born December 27, 1929, at Catharine. Kansas, Staab attended St. Joseph's Military Academy and graduated from Hays High

School in 1946. He joined the U.S. Army on August 3, 1948, and served in the 1st Infantry Division, 16th Regiment in the Army of Occupation in Nurnberg, Germany, area for 40 months, receiving an honorable discharge from the service on June 16, 1952.

He is presently on leave of absence from the LTV Energy Products Company, an oilfield supply firm for whom he has been employed over 30 years. He has served in many phases and in various capacities in our great organization, and this last year he served as our Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, traveling throughout the world as one of our official representatives.

Norm has carried our message abroad as well as at home, and he certainly leaves no doubt in anyone's mind as to how he feels when he speaks in behalf of the veterans and their dependents.

Our great organization needs the continuation of this type of leadership, thus it is with tremendous amount of pride and pleasure that I and nearly 43,000 members of Kansas place in nomination the name of Norman G. Staab of Kansas for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief for the year 1985-86. Thank you.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron called upon Kansas Past State Commander Whipple for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

Commander **WHIPPLE**. Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray, National Officers and fellow delegates: Having known Norman Staab for many, many years, having worked with him on many, many occasions, on VFW projects and programs, having closely associated with him as he proceeded through his many VFW accomplishments and being well aware of his extreme devotion to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and his dedication to its ideals and principles, I am very proud to have the honor, along with the Kansas delegation, to stand up, gentlemen and second the nomination of Norman Staab to the high office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for the ensuing year.

NOMINATION FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

(By John Ray, Past Commander, Department of New York)

Past State Commander **RAY**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, distinguished guests, comrades on the dais, comrades and delegates of this convention: It is my pleasure to give you some information this morning about our candidate for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. If you will let me, I would like to tell you just a little bit about his civilian and VFW pursuits and accomplishments.

He was born in Johnstown, New York, and his family moved to Fort Plains, New York, where he still resides, in 1948. He and his wife were retired school teachers and had six children and nine grandchildren. Following his return to Fort Plains from service in World War II, he became active in the community. And active politically as well. And worked his way through the echelons of his political party. He ultimately stood for election and was elected supervisor of the township of Danube, New York. Following this, he served four years as a member of the Board of Supervisors of that township.

Following that, he entered the Civil Service System and, as a result of the ability he possessed to demonstrate his accomplishments, ultimately was appointed executive director of the Civil Service Commission of Herkimer County, a position which he enjoyed until he retired just a short time ago.

During the time he served as the Director, he also was appointed, in 1981, as Administrator of the Office of Employment for Emergency Employment and served in that capacity until his retirement.

While he was in the Civil Service system, his peers, all of the directors of the Civil Service Commission throughout the United States, on two occasions elected him President of the New York State Civil Service Office Association.

He is licensed in the State of New York as a real estate assessor and performs vast functions for municipalities on a contractual basis.

He is also licensed to teach by the State of New York to teach governmental operations.

He is active in his community with the Multiple Sclerosis Society and has spent many years in scouting.

As a result of the unfortunate death of his brother killed in action in World War II, he joined the VFW and he joined Post 3275, Fort Plains, New York, in 1946.

After having service as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne Division from 1943 to 1946 and during that time or following that service, he served seven years in the military reserve and he served in command fo his Post and commander of Old Tryon County Council in one of the largest membership Districts of the Department of New York and he served that District Number 3 as its Commander.

With all that activity at the Department level he went through the chairs of our Department and served as Department Commander in 1972-73 and was designated by the organization as an All American Commander.

As a result of that service, ultimately he was elected by the comrades of our organization to serve as a member of the National Council of Administration.

He has served us at the Department level for eleven years and as Department Membership Chairman and has served for some three years as Department Legislative Chairman and we rejoice in our finest successes legislatively under his leadership.

As a result of this service, he was appointed by the Governor of New York State to serve on the New York State Commission of Vetrans and he served in that capacity over the past six years. He is counted as a service officer and has been for many years by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and because of the sudden death of our service officer in Albany, New York, we prevailed upon him while he was enjoying some of the fruits of retirement, based upon his many years of labor, we prevailed upon him to pinch hit and come back to us and assist us, which he did, and which he is presently doing in Albany.

He is quite a guy. For those of you who do not know him, once you do, you will discover, as we have, that when this comrade shakes your hand, whether it be friendship or agreement, that handshake is worth its weight in gold.

He is a man of integrity, honesty, sincerity and he is dedicated to our cause.

So, Comrades, on behalf of the Department of New York and on behalf of the Eastern States Conference, it is my pleasure to present to you now for your consideration for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States from New York, Past Department Commander, Earl Stock.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. And now for the purpose of seconding the nomination, we have the State Commander from the Great State of New York, George Smith, and Past Department Commander, District of Columbia, Paul Wampler.

State Commander Smith. Comrades, Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant, Officers, delegates of the 86th National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars: It is a great honor, a very great privilege, to have the opportunity to contribute to our great organization. We are proud on behalf of our hundred and ten thousand members to give you Earl Stock for the years that are necessary to serve this great organization.

We are going to miss Earl but our loss is the gain of the National Organization. So, on behalf of those hundred and ten thousand fellows and members of the entire State of New York, I am proud and privileged to second the nomination of Earl Stock for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Past Department Commander Wampler. District of Columbia. Commander-in-Chief, Comrades: It is a distinct pleasure and privilege to second this nomination on behalf of the Department Commander and the entire delegation of the Department of the District of Columbia. We know in our organization that Earl will be well received, so without further fanfare, in keeping with the tradition of presenting outstanding leadership from the Eastern States, I give you the gentleman from New York, Earl Stock.

NOMINATION FOR THE OFFICE OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

(By William Coleman, Senior Vice Commander, Department of Missouri)

Senior Vice Commander Coleman. Commander-in-Chief, National Officers, delegates and fellow comrades: I come before you to nominate a man who has dedicated twenty-three years to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving as the Assistant Quartermaster General, before being elected by the Council of Administration to fulfill the remaining term of the retiring Quartermaster General, J.A. "Al" Cheatham, and he has served in this capacity since April 1, 1985.

Herb is a graduate of the University of Kansas. He has a degree in Business Administration and is a Certified Public Accountant. He worked as a Public Accountant for four and a half years prior to being hired by National Headquarters. He has served as the Assistant Quartermaster General for more than twenty years.

During his tenure as Assistant Quartermaster General, Herb was responsible for helping develop the National Accounting System, the Dues Reporting System, and our National Insurance Programs.

It was Herb who worked out the administrative records for our National Insurance Programs, a series of programs that gross over forty million and net some four and a half million dollars, which accounts for approximately twenty percent of the National Organization's total income.

Herb was also instrumental in having the dues notices sent out by third class mail, which saved the Veterans of Foreign Wars hundreds of thousands of dollars.

It is with a great deal of pride, not only for myself, but for the entire Department of Missouri, that I place the name of Herb Irwin in nomination for the office of Quartermaster General.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. For the purpose of a second, Past Commander-in-Chief, Ray Soden.

Past Commander-in-Chief SODEN. Commander-in-Chief, National Officers and delegates of this convention: I am indeed pleased to come before you to second the nomination of the outstanding man who has contributed to this organization over the years and is unsurpassed.

He comes from the Great State of Missouri, the Show Me State and he has shown this organization by his talents and by his contributions to the office of Quartermaster General that he is qualified to fill a big pair of shoes of the great Quartermaster who retired, Al Cheatham. I know that he comes before you now for the first time to be elected by the full delegation of this National Convention after having been elected by the National Council of Administration to fill the vacancy in the office of Quartermaster General upon the retirement of Al Cheatham, so I am very pleased to rise before you and second the nomination of Herb Irwin for Quartermaster General for the ensuring year.

NOMINATION FOR THE OFFICE OF JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

(By Joseph Scerra, Past Commander-in-Chief)

Past Commander-in-Chief SCERRA. Officers and delegates, Commander-in-Chief of this National Convention in its 86th year, I am going to place in nomination the name from the Department of Massachusetts of a practicing attorney admitted to the bar in the State and Federal Courts and in the Supreme Court, but more than that, he is not only a practicing attorney, but he started, as all of us did, in the National Organization as a Post member, and he became an extraordinary member, and he served the Department of Massachusetts as Judge Advocate and he also served as Department Commander for the years 1965–66, achieving well over a hundred percent membership in his year.

Satisfied with those accomplishments? No, he was not satisfied. He produced the Massachusetts VFW News, which on no other occasion has won first place among the newspapers of our organization. He is a great, dedicated comrade. He served with the U.S. Army, Air Force during World War II.

I am proud to place in nomination a great guy from the Department of Massachusetts, unanimously endorsed by the Department of Massachusetts, unanimously endorsed by the Eastern States Conference who will serve you as Judge Advocate General, if elected, and who has done one heck of a job, Joe Riley, Post 1093, Massachusetts.

Massachusetts State Commander TETREAULT. Commander-in-Chief, delegates of the 86th National Convention: I rise for the purpose of seconding the nomination of Joe Riley for Judge Advocate General. He is an excellent worker and I want to say thank you very much for allowing us to do this.

NOMINATION FOR THE OFFICE OF SURGEON GENERAL

(By Renie J. Champagne, Commander, Department of California)

Commander CHAMPAGNE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, National Officers, comrades: I am Renie Champagne, Post 8750, San Francisco, Department of California.

The Department of California is proud to present for your consideration Doctor Edwin Wright for the office of National Surgeon General.

Doctor Wright is a life member of Post 9631 of the Department of California. He has served as Department Surgeon for several years.

Doctor Wright holds the position of Chief of Staff at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital at Loma Linda, California.

He has a long career in academic and administrative medicine; he holds offices in professional societies, local, state and at the national level.

Doctor Wright knows veterans and all their ills. He knows what a veteran needs in terms of health care.

He has always given his veteran patients the best care that our VA system provides.

We, in California, are well aware of Doctor Wright's dedication to his profession, his many years of teaching in the medical field, his years of medical research and his ability as an administrator.

He is a great physician and he believes and practices what the VFW stands for.

As Commander of the Department of California, it is my great pleasure to nominate Doctor Edwin Wright for the office of Surgeon General.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. For the purpose of a second, I will call on Past Department Commander Joe Martin.

California Past State Commander MARTIN. Commander-in-Chief, National Officers and delegates, I have known Doctor Wright for approximately ten to twelve years and I have worked for the last eight years in the Service Auxiliary in the VA Hospital and I can asure you that there will be no conflict of interest in Doctor Wright because Doctor Wright is a man for veterans.

He is for all veterans and if he has it his way, no veteran would ever be turned away from a VA hospital.

Many times he has seen cases where veterans had been denied and I went to Doctor Wright and I explained the situation and the veteran was treated and it is a great pleasure that I second the nomination of Doctor Wright for the Surgeon General.

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE OF NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

(By Jack Carney, Past Commander, Department of Florida)

Past Commander **CARNEY**. Commander-in-Chief, delegates to the 86th National Convention: As a representative of the Southern Conference we are indeed pleased and honored to advise you that we have selected an outstanding nominee for the office of National Chaplain.

We are pleased to announce that we have selected Reverend Father Warren Braun. Father Braun is not really known to everyone here, however, Father Braun has served as the State Chaplain of Ohio for many years and he served as the Big Ten Conference Chaplain for eight years and as National Chaplain from 1961-62.

Father Braun is of Roman Catholic faith and has been ordained so many years ago and he has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for over thirty years. He has served as the Chaplain of the State of Florida for some eight years and served with the Souther Conference as the Chaplain for the past six years.

I am pleased to present for your consideration for the office of National Chaplain, 1985-86, the name of Father Warren F. Braun.

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. For a second of the motion, I will call on Father John Leonard, Past National Chaplain.

Past National Chaplain Father **LEONARD**. Commander-in-Chief, delegates of this Convention: I am pleased to second the nomination of Father Braun. Most of you perhaps have seen us during the past thirteen years at conventions and the Washington Conference and you generally share the role and the role of hospitality of all those who may come in contact with Father Braun know that he is open to everyone and he is very much concerned about everyone. He brings us quality and tenderness and concern throughout the organization.

So, it is my pleasure to second the nomination of Father Warren Braun as our National Chaplain.

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. I will call for the purpose of another second on the nomination Jim Burkhart, State Commander of Florida.

State Commander **BURKHART**. Commander-in-Chief, fellow delegates to the 86th National Convention. On behalf of the Department of Florida, the entire Great State of Florida and the Southern Conference, it is a distinct honor to second the nomination of Father Warren Braun as National Chaplain.

[There being no further business for the day, National Chaplain Christiansen gave the closing prayer and Sergeant-at-Arms Sarver led the convention in a Salute to the Colors.

Commander-in-Chief Cameron recessed the convention at 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. Friday, August 23, 1985.]

CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1985

(Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron Presiding)

[The closing business session of the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was called to order in the arena of the Dallas Convention Center at 9:00 a.m. by Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron.

[Sergeant-at-Arms Sarver led the convention in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and National Chaplain Christiansen gave the opening prayer from the Ritual.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron called to the podium Past Commander-in-Chief Ted Connel, Chairman of the Convention Committee.]

National Convention Committee Chairman CONNELL. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: I shall read for the record a letter to us signed by the Department Commander of Ohio, Department Commander of Iowa and Council Members from Ohio.

"To the delegates assembled here today at the 86th National Convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars; certain situations arose at the Adolphus Hotel, in the City of Dallas, that made it necessary for the Commander and Delegates from the States of Ohio and Iowa to secure and move our delegates to another hotel on Saturday, August 17.

"These conditions were presented to the Chairman, Art Vater, as early as 11:00 a.m., Friday, August 16, as well as several other times throughout the day and evening and no action was taken until other arrangements were made by the Departments involved to get other accommodations to have our delegation housed.

"We were the victims of discrimination and in addition our delegates were harrassed and embarrassed and suffered other invasions of privacy made by certain employees of the Adolphus Hotel.

"A move to other quarters necessitated additional expense to the department and individual delegates. We feel we should be offered an apology by the convention; that the two departments involved should be compensated for the additional expenses incurred and the two departments should be offered their choice of hotel accommodations at the next National Convention to be held in Minnesota in 1986.

"Attested, Department of Ohio and Iowa on this 22nd day of August 1985."

The Commander-in-Chief appointed a Special Select Committee from your Convention Committee consisting of the Adjutant Quartermaster of the Department of Texas, Glen Gardner, and also a local attorney who was on the committee.

We did check into this matter and made the following report to the Commander-in-Chief.

"To Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief, from the Special Select Committee. Reference: Delegations from Ohio, Iowa, Arkansas, Virginia and Alabama.

The reason being these are all of the Departments that were housed in this particular hotel.

"Your committee has met with Commander Nick Vannicelli, Ohio; Senior Vice Commander W. Gordon Smith, Ohio; National Council Member Lawrence Krugman; Adjutant/Quartermaster Bobby R. Walls, Virginia; Commander Albert J. Roes, Askansas; Commander Ralph "Rod" Johnson, Iowa; Past Commander Darrell Miller, Iowa; and other representatives of the states involved and have determined the following:

"The Adolphus Hotel, through its representatives, has been rude, insensitive and callous in treatment, especially by one, Frank Alvarez, to the extent that they have illegally searched delegates' luggage, directed special security to inspect packages, directed hotel personnel to go through your stuff in the room, restricted personal items being taken to individuals' rooms, informed the Department Commander of Ohio that he was not allowed over six visitors in his suite at any one time, and when delegates to this convention wished to change hotels, refused to pay back their advance payments."

"As a footnote, we would like to say the Marketing Manager, Mr. Newsome, was extremely helpful and courteous to some of the above-mentioned Departments, inconsistent with treatment of members of other delegations.

"After agreeing not to charge corkage, corkage has been charged as late as Saturday evening. Delegates from especially Ohio and Iowa, because of the number of security people in the hotel feel they were being harassed and in their words treated as if being watched by the Gestapo."

Therefore, the Select Committee recommends that the Veterans of Foreign Wars make an apology.

That the Department of Ohio should be reimbursed the cost of the van that they rented since they were moved from the above mentioned hotel;

That in the future the convention be instructed to instruct all delegates that they are available to see that these problems do not happen in the future.

And we will go one step further; since this report was written we talked with both the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce and told them that in the future if we should come back to Dallas, Texas, we would expect that hotel not to be on our list of accommodations.

National Convention Chairman **VATER**. Going one step further on using a local attorney and member of the National Convention Committee, we wrote the General Manager of the Adolphus Hotel, 1400 Commerce Street at Akard, Dallas, Texas. "In Re: Delegates to VFW Convention.

> "Gentlemen:
>
> "It has been brought to the attention of the Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, Veterans of Foreign Wars, that you have abused certain delegates to the 86th National VFW Convention.
>
> "I have taken affidavits from twenty-eight delegates who stayed at your hotel whose luggage was searched illegally and against their wishes.
>
> "There are other acts of abuse, rudeness and insensitive treatment of our members for which you are responsible.
>
> "I can assure you the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will not let this injustice go unaddressed, and this is a formal written notice to you that I intend to file suit for the invasion of our members' privacy by your gestapo-like tactics.

This is signed by a local attorney.

This has been hand delivered to the manager of the hotel and he has assured us and we have seen since then that treatment has changed a hundred percent.

And from this podium, from the members of the National Convention Committee and Glen Gardner also, we wish to apologize for any treatment made by that hotel and I promise we shall be plenty sensitive in the future to these sorts of things for any and all delegates.

Chairman **CONNELL**. That completes our report.

FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

(by Chairman Richard Trombla)

Credentials Committee Chairman **TROMBLA**. Commander-in-Chief, Richard Trombla, Department of Kansas, Post 1174, Kansas.

This is the final report of the Credentials Committee for the 86th National Convention, Dallas, Texas.

Past Commanders-in-Chief	26
National Officers	33
Department Commanders	54
Alabama	220
Alaska	79
Arizona	235

Arkansas	152
California	614
Colorado	116
Connecticut	240
Delaware	107
District of Columbia	33
Florida	451
Georgia	228
Germany	55
Hawaii	38
Idaho	26
Illinois	718
Indiana	390
Iowa	175
Kansas	396
Kentucky	157
Louisiana	270
Maine	104
Maryland	270
Massachusetts	448
Michigan	494
Minnesota	729
Mississippi	283
Missouri	293
Montana	45
Nebraska	184
Nevada	47
New Hampshire	75
New Jersey	376
New Mexico	141
New York	403
North Carolina	243
North Dakota	111
Ohio	690
Oklahoma	399
Oregon	87
Pacific Areas	10
Panama Canal	10
Pennsylvania	945
Rhode Island	54
South Carolina	190
South Dakota	190
Tennessee	280
Texas	1,073
Utah	51
Vermont	36
Virginia	231
Washington	177
West Virginia	205
Wisconsin	285
Wyoming	52
Foreign (Post 605)	5
Grand total	14,029

Commander-in-Chief, this is the final report of the committee and I would like to ask that you dismiss the committee at this time.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. So ordered.

Credentials Committee Chairman TROMBLA. At this time I would like to introduce the members of this committee:

Edwin L. Myers, Post 9814, California; Elwood B. Rickards, Post 7234, Delaware; James L. Mascola, Post 3580, Illinois; James H. Kennedy, Post 3877, Minnesota; James H. Willis, Post 534, Missouri; Charles Sauer, Post 4290, New Jersey; Thomas J. Poole, Post

1975, New York; Ray Nowak, Post 2940, New York: Sam Fruttoso, Post 1069, Ohio; Richard L. Kilhefner, Post 3376, Pennsylvania; Juston M. Morrow, Post 2012, Texas; and Jake Tate, Jr., Post 8977, Virginia.

Thank you Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you very much, Richard. You have done a tremendous job and we are very, very proud.

PRESENTATION OF VFW GOLD MEDAL OF MERIT AND CITATION TO OTTO GRAHAM, CAPTAIN, U.S. COAST GUARD, (RETIRED)

(By Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron)

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is an organization of people whose service to their country has imbued them with a compassionate concern for their fellowman. Such a person is Otto Graham, a retired Captain in the United States Coast Guard.

Having waged a successful fight against cancer, he was devoted his life to telling other cancer victims how they can lead reasonably normal lives even after a colostomy.

He also engages in an extensive program of public speaking to enable the general public to understand the problems of those with colostomies. Much of his effort is dedicated to personal counseling of fellow sufferers to encourage them to continue their fight.

To battle the disease, each year he raises funds through his own Otto Graham Colostomy Golf Tournament.

Otto Graham, who served in the Navy during World War II, is a native of Waukegan, Illinois. He played football at Northwestern University and then went on to play quarterback for the Cleveland Browns from 1946 to 1955, Coach the College All-Stars in their games against the United States National Football League Champions from 1958 to 1965 and to become the Athletic Director and Head Coach of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy from 1959 to 1966.

He left the Academy for two years, 1966 to 1968, to become General Manager of the Washington Redskins. Then he returned to the Academy in 1970 as Athletic Director.

Otto Graham is active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, serving as President from 1956 to 1957. Since 1967, he has been a board member of the Washington YMCA.

His athletic prowess won him selection as an All American in football and basketball in 1943, All Pro Quarterback in 1951-52 and 1954-55 and to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1965.

It is an honor to present Captain Otto Graham with the Commander-in-Chief's Gold Medal and Citation.

And let me read the citation:

> "In recognition of his personal commitment to providing aid, encouragement and moral support at his own expense to countless terminally ill cancer patients throughout our Nation and in special recognition of his continuing campaign to arouse public awareness of the personal problems endured by cancer sufferers.
>
> "In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and the official seal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, this 23rd day of August, 1985."

And it is signed by Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron and Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute.

And also a check for $1,000.00.

REMARKS OF OTTO GRAHAM

Distinguished Guest **GRAHAM**. Thank you very much.

Members of the Veterans for Foreign Wars, it is a pleasure, a great pleasure and honor for me to be here today, but I do, very honestly, question why your committee would pick a guy like me to receive this award today, the VFW Gold Medal of Merit and this Citation. I was in the Navy Air Corps for the last war, which I never got overseas, because I was about a month or so short of getting my shipment when the war ended. But I like to think, myself, that I contributed to the war in that the Japanese felt that, if I had gone overseas, they felt that I might shoot as well as I used to throw passes and that's why they gave up.

It is true I did coach many years of athletes and at the Catholic School for twenty-two years, and I did wear a uniform everyday and the Coast Guard people used to ask me what I would have done if we went to another war and they sent me out to sea as the skipper of a Coast Guard Cutter, for example.

My answer is very simple. If that ever happened, we might as well give up, because it took me twenty-two years of learning the difference between port and starboard. Frankly I don't think I could ever be the skipper of a Coast Guard Cutter.

Let me see the hands of you guys out there—the ex-football players. Let me see the guys that played football in their younger days.

Ladies put your hands down.

How many quarterbacks? How many quarterbacks? Stand up if you were a quarterback. I am talking about key formation quarterbacks. If you were second wing then sit down, you're nothing but a dumb guard.

The rest of you guys, okay. Look at these guys. Stand up.

These are the smartest guys in the world. I don't know what their jobs are now but back in those days I know from experience they do the least amount of work and get all the credit and make the most money.

Now sit down.

Any of you guys centers? Any centers stand up. Stand up. Stand up. You're pretty tall. How tall?

Convention **DELEGATE**. Six three.

Distinguished Guest **GRAHAM**. Turn around and bend over.

You are a good working center.

Now, I can't tell jokes in front of—I'm sorry—you have a good posterior, a good place for the hands.

I've got to tell you a story. Frank Gifford, who was just inducted in the Football Hall of Fame in Canton a couple weeks ago got his name right along with Joe Namath and O. J. Simpson and so forth. Frank was my center, six foot five, and I had to laugh. He finally retired from football and he said the one thing about football that he was going to miss was Otto Graham's hands.

Well, seven and a half years ago, it would have been ridiculous to give me this award, quite honestly. I would, like most people back in those days, pick up the paper and see some poor soul had cancer and you'd say "that's too bad" and turn over to the sports page and forget about it. Everybody, very honestly, thinks it's going to happen next door. It is never going to happen to me.

I, myself, knew it would never happen to me. I was the big shot athlete. I don't drink, I don't smoke, I never have. It would never happen to me. Well, let me tell you, it did happen to me. As a result of that, now I am not seeking sympathy but it's a fact of life.

In fact I would like to know how many people in this group today have colostomies. Anybody?

Where is one? Stand up. You guys stand up. Stay up. Stay up. Be proud. Be proud of it.

I say that because quite frankly you and I are better off than the rest of these guys and girls around here.

Stay up. Stay up. Take advantage. You know when I say "take advantage" we have—you and I have an advantage, we never get hemorrhoids, we never will have hemorrhoids.

No proctoscopes for us. You know, in the service we call that the stallion, you know that. No more dirty toilet seats in restaurants and filling stations.

Everybody gets gas and every so often you have an accident. We have a perfect excuse for gas, we can't control it, if I did a spft-st-st-st right now, I'd look at Billy Ray and say "what'd you say, Billy Ray?"

The best thing about you and myself and the rest of these so-called normal people, if they have to go up and frankly have a bowel movement they've got to go find a restroom. You can sit there and I can stand here and we can both go at the same time while I talk.

That's the best part; a tremendous advantage, no question about it.

You know, having had cancer, quite honestly I firmly believe that this is the best thing that's ever happened to me in my whole life. I make that statement assuming, of course, that I continue to live.

If I die I take it all back. If I continue to live it's true. Why would I say that? Quite honestly, I know I am a different person that I was seven or eight years ago. Not that I was bad, but I did all kinds of charity things and I did it back in those days because it was expected of me.

Now, I do it because I want to. I go to hospitals and talk to people who have colostomies and cancer and I do raise money for the Colostomy Association and the Cancer Society, that type of thing, and it is true that I have the Golf Tournament and we make $20,000.00 for the Colostomy Association, so I enjoy doing that.

I, also, quite honestly, promised God seven and a half years ago if I did survive I would do everything in my power and do anything I could to help anybody with this disease and help eradicate this horrible thing.

I have kept that promise.

My purpose today, in receiving this award, is that I want to tell you that it is more important to me that I am here today because I want to talk to you and I am going to—I went to some of the parties last night and I didn't think there would be a delegate in the whole place. I figured they would be home in bed with a hangover. They should be here because I want to say to them and I want you to pass this on to them, I am serious when I say this, as sure as I am standing right here talking to you right now. The next two or three years, of the people attending this convention for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Auxiliary, the wives or whatever, approximately two hundred will have cancer of some kind in the next two years.

If I could convince just one of those two or three hundred to take the time to call the doctor to make an appointment to go in and get an examination and if you don't want to take the time for that go in and get one of these detection things that they sell these days for colon cancer detection and that type of thing.

If you will take the time to do that and they discover, in time, that you have cancer it will save your life and my speech is well worthwhile.

It is probably corny, but true. I do get a lot more personal satisfaction doing what I'm doing today than I did back playing football for the Browns.

Sure it was fun. I make the paper and got my picture in the paper and that sort of thing and twenty bucks went up in the stands and they lost money because I didn't score enough points and, you know, but today I do have a lot more personal satisfaction in doing what I am doing.

I have been all over this country in the last six years. They have a product detector which detects blood in the stool. One of the symptoms of cancer. I have endorsed this product and I travel all over this country, I hate to tell you how many miles, but I do this and I talk to medical organizations and I go on TV shows and radio shows and I'm pushing the product and at the same time my main purpose is to try to help people help save themselves from cancer and frankly I don't care if it's our product or some other product. I say this, go ahead and use somebody's product. Go see a doctor.

The main thing is to get early detection, that's the best thing going for you. Quite honestly, the percent of the people in this country today who have colon cancer are forty years or over. I don't think anyone in this audience are under forty, so half of the people will have colon cancer. I say most sincerely, don't be a damn fool. Don't be a damn fool. Get yourself checked. Go home and make an appointment with the doctor and take one of these tests and use whatever product you want to use, but do it.

Over the last three or four or five months or so we have had our recorders and we have had over a dozen calls of people that have called in because they tried the product and used it and so forth and they detected symptoms of blood in the stool and found out early the stages of cancer and saved their lives.

Do you know how happy that makes you? I would much rather have you people call me and say that you had your examination because of whatever and it saved your life. I would much rather do that than read my name in the paper or read your name in the obituary column. All my life I have been associated with many, many hyper people in all walks of life and I want to say that it was an enjoyable time of my life and one of the most enjoyable times of my life has been in my military life in the Coast Guard dealing with people in the military just like yourselves.

They are a different breed of people and are just outstanding people.

So I am simply saying in closing to you people, fellow has-beens—I am a has-been like you fellows—has-beens—this award that you have given me today—this award is just as important as any award that I received in my life and I have received a few honors, for my very, very small part in this great convention.

Thank you very much.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS FOR THE CONVENTION

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron recognized Past Commander-in-Chief Eric Sandstrom, General Resolutions Committee, for the purpose of introducing the courtesy resolutions.]

Past Commander-in-Chief **SANDSTROM**. Resolution 320, An Expression of Thanks to Dallas for the City's Hospitality.

Whereas, the City of Dallas, Texas, has played host to National Conventions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on four occasions since the end of the World War II; and

Whereas, the City of Dallas, Texas, was the site of the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and extended every effort to make this event memorable for the delegates and their families and assured them of the utmost in hospitality; and

Whereas, delegates to the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the 72nd National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, were welcomed to Dallas by the Mayor, to Dallas County by the Sheriff and to Texas by the State Adjutant General, representing the Governor; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we express our gratitude to the City of Dallas, the County of Dallas and the State of Texas for their hospitality, friendliness and generosity in making this 86th National Convention one of the most successful in the history of the organization."

The other resolution is Resolution Number 321.

Expression of Thanks to Past Commander-in-Chief Ted C. Connell.

Whereas, Ted C. Connell has served the Veterans of Foreign Wars in a wide variety of offices, including that of Commander-in-Chief, and has always been ready, willing and able to perform any function he has been asked to carry out; and,

Whereas, Ted C. Connell served this year as Chairman of the 86th National Convention Committee Board of Directors, which was responsible for laying the foundation for what has been one of the most successful Conventions in the history of our organization; and,

Whereas, Ted C. Connell's dedication to the Veterans of Foreign Wars once again has been demonstrated in his service in this vital and sensitive position; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we tender our thanks to Past Commander-in-Chief Ted C. Connell for the splendid manner in which the 86th National Convention plans were made and the exemplary manner in which, under his direction they were carried out."

These two resolutions were submitted by the General Resolutions Committee and I move their adoption.

[The motion was seconded by Father Braun, Post 1966, Florida, put to a vote and adopted.

[On motion duly made and seconded, the convention voted to reconsider Resolution 739 "Recognize the Women Who Served in the Vietnam War." After voting to reconsider, Robert Gascoigne, Commander, Department of Wisconsin, moved the adoption of Resolution 739.

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron yielded the Chair to Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Staum in order to speak in support of the adoption of Resolution 739.]

Commander-in-Chief Cameron. Comrade Commander: As a member of this great organization and Commander-in-Chief, I have traveled around the United States trying to put an image upon the Veterans of Foreign Wars and I know that many people are interested in the organization and sometimes there are special interest groups, but I can remember, as Commander-in-Chief, when I went on record that I would build a monument to the Korean Vet and I walked the halls of Congress seeking support on this; and yesterday there was a resolution and you refused to build a monument or statue in Washington, D.C., recognizing the Vietnam nurses.

Having been wounded twice in Vietnam and served many times with nurses, I feel that it is a shame to vote this down.

All they are seeking is our help and support and asking for no money or anything in that category. And so many, many approached me last night and asked us to consider this again.

So, as Commander-in-Chief, I would like to go on record in favor of adopting this resolution.

Thank you.

Evelyn Shoeffield. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, I am Evelyn Shoeffield, 3888. I speak and give my wholehearted endowment to the passing of this resolution.

I think it will serve a great purpose for really solidifying relationships within our organizations and giving the Vietnam women the recognition they so richly deserve.

I heard the comment, "maybe this isn't fair to World War II veterans"; I am not a nurse. I am a veteran of World War II, but to me this is an inspiration and a lady that started this project said. "Here it is. I would like to see memorials and I certainly would like to see a woman memorialized for some very dedicated service."

It doesn't just represent the Vietnam veteran, although this is specific to women Vietnam veterans. To me it represents all women. I don't—even we could have a memorial if that is what World War II women want, but let's not feel we are doing my injustice to World War II veterans by passing this resolution. It's part of an injustice I think to not do it.

I was one of the first women that volunteered and trained in Des Moines, Iowa, and this was another first for women in the Armed Forces; and I think that it would be a wonderful thing if the Veterans of Foreign Wars would pass this.

It would stimulate a lot of women veterans on the edge of joining VFW, and frankly, I hear that American Legions are getting many women and I don't want them to get ahead of us.

I just want to conclude by saying, let's honor the Vietnam women, and I will salute them. I love them. Join with me in passing this resolution. Let's give it a go.

Diane Evans. Comrade Commander, Diane Evans, Post 2115, Department of Wisconsin.

Please let me read the resolve that we are considering. I will read the resolve. It reads:

> "*Be it resolved* by the 86th National Convention of VFW that we support the Vietnam Veterans Womens Project as a National project to honor all service women

who served during the Vietnam War which will complete the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C."

This is what we are voting on. In the resolution itself, there is no mention of the title "Nurse." On the status, there is, and I would go on record today as stating that we will take away the title "Nurse" on this statue which is currently being shown, the bronze plaque; and I will take away the word "Nurse"; and we will simply refer to it as the Vietnam Womens Memorial.

It will not be referred to any longer as "Nurse."

As for the artistic representation of this women, it is in balance with the Frederick Hart statue in that the three fighting men carry very distinct equipment, an M-60 machine gun, an M-16 rifle, and a bandolier of ammunition and cartridge belt, etc.

The three fighting men do not have the equipment on them that everybody used. There is no doctor there; there is no scalpel, there is no administrator of personnel with their equipment. There are three fighting men with combat gear. Our statue also carries certain equipment. It is artistically to fit with the three fighting men.

Our statue is artistically representational as is Frederick Hart's statue. The Frederick Hart statue honors all men in Vietnam as our statue will honor all women.

I urge you to reconsider this resolution which will put the VFW on record as supporting a memorial which honors all the women who served during the Vietnam War.

Helen Kavage. Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron and National Commander-in-Chief coming in this afternoon or morning. My name is Helen Kavage. They call me Holly. I am representing District Number 2 from New Jersey.

As I mentioned earlier, National Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, National Commander-in-Chief John Staum incoming, and the whole delegation of this wonderful organization, I heard this tear jerking speech yesterday, and it's not a—there's no question about it, I myself was for this resolution.

After this meeting there was a certain gentleman from my hotel in the elevator, and I asked him of his opinion, and he said, "Don't vote for that baloney. They are using that resolution to make money."

I disapprove of this resolution.

Thank you.

Convention **Delegate.** Commander-in-Chief, Mike Waysoph, Post 9503, New Jersey. I have listened to this convention yesterday and the days before and heard the recommendations from the committees to reject or to accept and this talk about special interest groups, and I can't see where they get these recommendations because it's a special interest group.

Sure, it's a special interest group, I agree. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a special interest group. We are veterans and looking out for ourselves.

So you can't say because the military retired me in January that I am a special interest group any different than anybody else.

We don't support a recommendation or resolution because of it being a special interest group. That is not the purpose.

Do we support the memorial because they are a special interest group? No. We certainly can't stand and say that we deny our support for the memorial because of the sex of the statue. We can't do that, and it sounds to me like that's what we are doing.

So, with or without our support, this memorial project is going to go on ahead and I would like to see that the Veterans of Foreign Wars be the first major veterans organization to throw their support behind this project.

I think we should support this memorial and it would still be showing Americans and our people that we are still first in serving America and we are reaching toward those new horizons. Without fear of contradiction, I can say that the majority of the new delegation and their caucuses support this resolution and I urge this convention to adopt it.

Thank you.

State Commander **DiLoretto**, Pennsylvania. Comrades of the great Nation, State Commander from Pennsylvania, Department of Pennsylvania, I have to commend our Commander-in-Chief for standing out with the possibility of being defeated before this convention here to voice an opinion of his feelings and bless the others that are so holy that they go around and never condemn a person by hearsay.

I personally don't feel this is a money making project. This is a thing of the heart, dedicated to women of all services of the United States, and as far as we are concerned, there should be a monument in every corner of the city to depict our veterans and let those people of America know that veterans have defended their country.

Comrade Commander and Chairman, and Billy Ray, the Department of North Carolina, and those people down from the hills: If we don't get it going through this time—well, Pensylvania will fully support this resolution.

Convention **Delegate**. Comrades and Chief: Nicholas Harris, Post 10269, Okinawa, I strongly support this resolution. We Vietnam veterans are accused of demanding and I for one respectfully request that this resolution be passed wholeheartedly.

[At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair put the motion to approve Resolution 739 to a vote. The Chair declared the motion adopted and Resolution 739 approved.]

MOTION TO SUBMIT PROCEEDINGS OF CONVENTION TO SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

(By Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., Adjutant General)

Adjutant General **Vander Clute**. Comrade Commander-in-Chief: In accordance with the provision of the Congressional Charter I move that the proceedings of the Veterans of the Foreign Wars 86th National Convention here in Dallas be submitted to the Speaker of the House, The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., for forwarding to the Government Printing Office and made a part of the registered proceedings under Public Law 90–620, approved October 22, 1968, Title 44 of the United States Code, Section 1332; I so move.

[The motion was seconded by Past Sergeant-at-Arms Malyszko, Post 1046, and adopted.]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE VFW NATIONAL HOME BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(By Adjutant General Vander Clute)

Adjutant General **VANDER CLUTE**. It is required that we read the names of the candidates who are seeking the office of VFW National Home Board of Trustees.

From the Third National Home District representing the States of Pennsylvania, District of Columbia and Delaware, and this is to replace Elizabeth J. Zaleski, whose term is expiring, there's one candidate listed for that position on the National Home Board of Trustees: Ronald G. Tyler, Jr., Post 1462, Pennsylvania.

From the Fourth National Home District representing the states of Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland to replace John Wasylik whose term is expiring, there are three candidates: Edward W. Fowler, Post 2677, Baltimore, Maryland; Vivian Walters, Auxiliary 6067, Green Springs, Ohio; and Ralph Honaker, Post 1064, Huntington, West Virginia.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. Yesterday John S. Staum, Post 9625, Minnesota, was nominated for the office of Commander-in-Chief.

[There being no further nominations after three calls by the Chair, Commander-in-Chief Cameron declared nominations for the office of Commander-in-Chief closed.]

ELECTION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, JOHN S. STAUM

[On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the election of John S. Staum as Commander-in-Chief.]

Adjutant General **VANDER CLUTE**. As instructed by this convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for the election of John S. Staum as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief-Elect Staum and his family were escorted to the podium by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Commander-in-Chief elect of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, John S. Staum. John. (Mrs. Staum placed the Commander-in-Chief's cap on her husband's head.)

Commander-in-Chief-Elect **STAUM**. Thank you so much. Thank you. I had to look at it. it really does say "Commander-in-Chief" on the side. What a wonderful feeling, like it's the highest office in this organization.

You know, last night at the Big 10 Banquet, my statement was, when I first started this, so many would come up to me during the week and ask me if I was excited, and I gave the answer that we have done so much preliminary work that with that much work I really didn't know but I am going to tell you this morning, hell, yes, I'm excited. I'm excited because I am going to be the leader of the greatest organization in the entire world. And that is exciting.

I am proud to have been the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and now wear the hat and be the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

My predecessor, Billy Ray—now Billy, we haven't known each other a great many years but by coincidence we were put together to serve in this chairs of this great organization this past year and I served as your Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and I watched you travel through this Nation and I listened to your statements of dedication and I will do my best to continue on with the great work that you did this year.

I have said it so many times, of all of the other two million members of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States I was the one lucky guy that could be your Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief-Elect STAUM. If I could have picked my own brother, which I never had, I would have picked you, Billy. It's been a tremendous association and friendship and it will go on for many, many years.

And to Norm Staab, we have going many years back. I am looking forward to continuing our friendship and working with you this next year. Now I think you are going to be elected in a few minutes as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

And I would at this time, like to introduce my family. [Commander-in-Chief Elect Staum introduced his wife, Bernadette; his daughter, Nancy, and her husband, Robert; his son, Mark, daughter-in-law, Linda, and granddaughter, Lindsey.]

ELECTION OF SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, NORMAN G. STAAB

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that Norman G. Staab, Post 6240, Kansas, had been nominated for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. There being no further nominations, the Chair declared the nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief closed, and on motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Norman G. Staab as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.]

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. As instructed by this convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Norman G. Stabb, Post 6240, Kansas, as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort our distinguished Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Elect to the podium?

Sergeant-at-Arms SARVER. Yes, sir.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you, comrades. At this time, it gives me great pleasure to present the new Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Elect, who has been a great help to me as Commander-in-Chief, Norman G. Staab.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect STAAB. Fellow comrades, I accept this high honor of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, which belongs to all of you who have graciously placed me in this position.

It is impossible to adequately express my gratitude for selecting me as one of your leaders.

I can assure you that I will go any place at any time and do whatever is necessary in pursuit of the many goals of this great organization.

Our objectives have always been in the best interest of the most important segment of our society, the men and women who have served or are still serving in the Armed Forces of our Nation.

Our two major concerns are for a strong national defense and assurance of veterans, widows and orphans, that they will be taken care of in their hour of need. As we reach for new horizons we can assure you we are going to be dedicating ourselves to these goals.

I most appreciate the fine support from my Post and Post Commander and the 6th District Commander of Kansas, Charlie Stevens, my State Commander, Darrell Bancken, and all of the Comrades from Kansas, and of course the great Western Conference and my own Conference Chairman.

It's been a great year and with a great Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, and he has been very supportive and certainly made his mark.

I look forward to the new leadership of another fine, great commander, equally as capable in John Staum.

I now hope you, like I, will be looking forward to working with him as soon as the convention ends and as many of you have already started, I want to wish our members and Ladies Auxiliary the very best for a most productive and enjoyable year.

I appreciate the kindness and courtesy which you gave to me in the past year and especially my family, my wife, Cecilia, has been a great help to me and always has been willing to serve anywhere she can.

I would like to introduce to you, at this time, also the other two members of my family that are here with me. Cecilia, and our daugther, Cathy, and also my niece, Amy, who also accompanied us.

We are ready to go on to the new horizons and may God Bless each and every one of you.

ELECTION OF JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, EARL L. STOCK POST 3275, NEW YORK

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that Earl L. Stock, Post 3275, New York, had been nominated for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. There being no further nominations, the Chair declared the nominations for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief closed and on motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Earl L. Stock as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.]

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. As instructed by the convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Earl Stock to the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort the distinguished Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect to the podium.

It is indeed an honor to present to you the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect, Earl L. Stock.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect STOCK. Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray; Commander-in-Chief-Elect John Staum; Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief-Elect Norm Staab; National Officer; Staff; Department Commanders; National Council and Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

I pledge to you as we join the team of leadership of this great organization of ours, that we will work together for higher horizons, that we will be a great organization so the veterans, both ladies and men, will stand as a number among this Nation for veterans benefits and will continue to foster these benefits.

I thank some people that gave me this chance to be your Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and I must start out with my Post, Fort Plains, New York, Memorial Post 3275, that stood by me all these years that felt I was able to assume this position.

To my County Council who worked faithfully with them and the District Number 3 and District Commander, Vietnam Veteran of the year a fews years back and he is with us, Jim Ratcliff, and his leadership and my great Department of New York Present Commander, George Smith, and his offices and to all those Past Commanders of the Great Department of New York that supported me and to those states that joined me in the Eastern Conference to assist in my position, Vermont, Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., Germany, New Jersey, New York and Maine.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you comrades that supported me so strongly and during the campaign that offered me encouragement to continue to have reached this goal.

To all of the comrades in the Eastern Conference I pledge to you that I shall work for all of you in the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the goals that this great organization stands by.

To you, this year, Commander Staum, I pledge to you, my sole support in working for the causes that you and your administration stand for.

To you, Norm, I pledge to you the work that I will do as hard as I possibly can to make this year another successful banner year under the leadership of the 3 S's, John Staum, for success; Norman Staab, for strength; and Earl Stock, for support; for another banner year in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Thank you so much, all of you.

I will introduce my family.

My wife, Jean, who stood by me all these years since I traveled around the great states of the country, and my son, John—I have five sons and a daughter who supported me in my endeavors for Veterans of Foreign Wars and the causes of the organization, and I thank you both.

I just want to say this before I leave. I had the privilege of working with the young Vietnam Veteran some years ago at membership roundups, and he did a tremendous job and encouraged the

Vietnam Veterans to join our forces and I know, Billy, you are going to continue that and I am pleased to have been a part of your team.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you.

ELECTION OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, HERBERT W. IRWIN

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that Herbert W. Irwin, Post 5789, Missouri, had been nominated for the office of Quartermaster General. There being no further nominations, the Chair declared the nominations for the office of Quartermaster General closed and on motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Herbert W. Irwin as Quartermaster General.]

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. As instructed by the delegates of this convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Herbert Irwin to the office of Quartermaster General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the Quartermaster General to the podium.

It is a great pleasure that I introduce to you the Quartermaster General for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Herb W. Irwin.

Quartermaster General-Elect IRWIN. Comrades, one word, there is no such thing as a self-made man. The friends of that person make him or break him.

I want to thank all of you for all that you have done for me. I shall try and do the very best job I possibly can. They don't have to give me a new cap or new name badge. I am ready to go. Thank you very much.

ELECTION OF JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, JOSEPH V. RILEY

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that Joseph V. Riley, Post 1093, Massachusetts, had been nominated for the office of Judge Advocate General. There being no further nominations, the Chair declared the nominations for the office of Judge Advocate General closed and on motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Joseph V. Riley a Judge Advocate General.]

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. As instructed by this convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Joseph V. Riley, to the office of Judge Advocate General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the Judge Advocate General-Elect.

At this time, I present to you, the Judge Advocate General-Elect, Joseph V. Riley.

Judge Advocate General-Elect RILEY. Commander-in-Chief, National Officers and Delegations assembled: I would like to begin by introducing the most important person in the hall. My wife for 32 years, Dorothy Riley.

Thank you. I would like to thank Past Commander-in-Chief, Joe Scerra, and other Past Commanders from the Department of Massachusetts and National Council Member, Albert Konan. And Department Commander of Massachusetts Bob Tetreault, Ted Eaton and the rest of the officers and members of the Massachusetts delegation.

And the members of the Eastern Conference.

I stand here very humble with the delegates of the convention here today and pledge my support and my dedication to fulfill the duties of the office and exemplify those who have gone before me in this office.

Thank you very much.

ELECTION OF SURGEON GENERAL, DR. EDWIN WRIGHT

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that Dr. Edwin Wright, Post 9631, California, had been nominated for the office of Surgeon General. There being no further nominations, the Chair declared the nominations for the office of Surgeon General closed, and on motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Dr. Edwin Wright as Surgeon General.]

Adjutant General **VANDER CLUTE**. As directed by the convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Dr. Edwin Wright to the office of Surgeon General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. It is with great pleasure that I present Dr. Edwin Wright from California as the new Surgeon General.

Surgeon General-Elect **WRIGHT**. First, I wish to thank the Department of California. They have tolerated this middle aged Professor for several years as their State Surgeon. I hope they tolerate me at least one more year as Surgeon General.

Second, I wish to thank the Western Conference for their support.

Our Senior Vice Commander just told you and I cannot quote his words exactly, but the thought was how does one express one's emotions, going through an event such as this. I think I can summarize it this way, and then I will sit down.

Being a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars makes a man and woman feel great.

Commander-in-Chief, I feel great this morning.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL CHAPLAIN, REV. WARREN F. BRAUN

[Commander-in-Chief Cameron announced that Reverend Father Warren F. Braun, Post 1966, Florida, had been nominated for the office of National Chaplain. There being no further nominations, the Chair declared the nominations for the office of National Chaplain closed, and on motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Adjutant General be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Reverend Father Warren F. Braun as National Chaplain.]

Adjutant General **VANDER CLUTE**. Commander-in-Chief, as instructed by the 86th National Convention, I cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Father Warren F. Braun as National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort our National Chaplain-Elect to the podium.

Sergeant-at-Arms SARVER. Yes, sir.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. It is a great pleasure that I present National Chaplain Elect of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Reverend Braun.

National Chaplain-Elect BRAUN. Thank you Commander-in-Chief. I am sorry I do not have a wife to introduce but I do have a happy family. It is by His grace and His blessing that I shall serve and I will promise you, Commander-in-Chief and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I am at your disposal and with the Heavenly Father's blessings and the help of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I shall do my utmost to serve you.

God bless.

Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Okay. At this time, I call on the Adjutant General for the announcement of the National Council Members elect.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. I would ask that the Council Members elect, as I call your name, please advance to the Sergeant-at-Arms, and he will place you in position to receive your cap and badge of office.

After you have received your cap and badge, please remain in that position so that you will be prepared to take your oath of office with the National Officers.

District Number 1 representing Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, John M. Packard.

District Number 3 representing Maryland and Rhode Island, Bruno Betro.

District Number 5 representing Indiana and Missouri, Melvin Page.

District Number 7 representing Tennessee and North Carolina, Claude Jack Ragan.

District Number 9 representing States of Mississippi, Alabama and South Carolina, S. H. Parsons.

District Number 11, Wisconsin and Iowa, Russell D. Traux.

District Number 13, Nebraska and Kansas, Raymond N. Stotler.

District Number 15, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona, Merle R. Cushat.

District Number 17, Utah, Nevada and Oregon, Jack Williams.

District A, Pennsylvania, Raymond C. Mullin.

District B, Illinois, Dwight Tanner, Jr.

District C, New York, Domenick A. Volpe.

District F, Michigan, Irving M. Spencer.

District G, California, Joseph F. Martin.

District I, New Jersey, George Van Allen.

Now the Council Members who will be serving their second term have been requested by Commander-in-Chief-Elect John Staum to take the obligation with the National Officers.

I would ask at this time that the Council Members presently serving, please advance to the Sergeant-at-Arms and he will place you in position for the obligation.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

(By Commander-in-Chief-Elect John S. Staum)

[Commander-in-Chief-Elect Staum made the following appointments:

Adjutant General, Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Chief of Staff, George Cramer, Department of Illinois.
Inspector General, Robert Eliason, Department of Minnesota.

National Sergeant-at-Arms, George Sarver, Pennsylvania.]

INSTALLATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

Adjutant General **VANDER CLUTE**. Sergeant-at-Arms, as I call the roll of the National Officers, would you please escort them to their positions to receive their obligation.

Commander-in-Chief has requested that he will take the oath of office with his officers and he will take it separately as administered by Past Commander-in-Chief Bob Hansen.

[Adjutant General Vander Clute called off the names of the National Officers to be installed for the 1985–86 year:

Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum.
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr
Quartermaster General Herbert W. Irwin.
Judge Advocate General Joseph V. Riley.
Surgeon General Dr. Edwin Wright.
National Chaplain Reverend Warren F. Braun.
Chief of Staff, George R. Cramer.
Inspector General Robert D. Eliason.
Sergeant-at-Arms George Sarver

National Council Members:

John M. Packard.
Bruno W. Betro.
Melvin L. Page, Sr.
Claude Jack Ragan.
S. H. Parsons.
Russell D. Truax.
Raymond N. Stotler.
Merle R. Cushat.
Jack Williams.
Raymond C. Mullin.
Dwight Tanner, Jr.
Domenick A. Volpe.
Irving M. Spencer.
Joseph F. Martin.
George Van Allen.

The already sitting Council Members:

Albert J. Konan.
Elmer L. Matheke.
Richard M. Dawson.
Lester W. Davis.
William M. Procter.
A. J. Heggestad.
Harold Lind.
Joe DeCosta.
Lawrence J. Krugman.
Robert H. Mares.
C. W. Buchanan.
Past Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron.
Adjutant General Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.]

Commander-in-Chief **CAMERON**. At this time, I call on Past Commander-in-Chief Bob Hansen for the purpose of installing the officers.

All rise.

Past Commander-in-Chief **HANSEN**. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief.

First of all, I would like to say it is the greatest privilege and honor to be selected to give the oath of office to the new Council of Administration and the newly elected National Officers.

As I said yesterday, it is a dream that many of you would never realize would come true to give the office of obligation to John Staum as Commander-in-Chief; 28 years ago, I gave him his obligation as a member of this organization and so it is indeed a great privilege.

I have asked to serve with me today in performing this ceremony, Paul Malyszko, Past National Sergeant-at-Arms from Massachusetts, and George Sarver, Pennsylvania, National Sergeant-at-Arms, and Joe Schirmers, Saint Cloud, Minnesota, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

[The officers were installed according to the Ritual.]

PRESENTATION TO PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BILLY RAY CAMERON

(By Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum)

Commander-in-Chief STAUM. There are two things I have to present to you this morning, Billy. It is with great pleasure that I present you your Past Commander-in-Chief diamond pin and your gold Life Membership card.

Past Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you very much.

Commander-in-Chief STAUM. Another presentation for the outgoing Chief.

Adjutant General VANDER CLUTE. Comrade Commander-in-Chief, it has become a tradition that began five years ago, that the members of the staff, of the employees from Kansas City Headquarters and the staff at the Washington Office, have seen fit to purchase for you in recognition of your devotion to the organization and loyal service in this case, your tie tac which represented your theme First Serving America. It is an exact replica of the pin that you gave to so many of the Comrades as recognition of their service to the organizations with you. However, this one is gold and has a beautiful diamond in the middle of the Cross of Malta, and believe me, Commander-in-Chief, it comes to you with the love and admiration of all of us that served with you.

Congratulations.

REMARKS OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF CAMERON

Past Commander-in-Chief CAMERON. Thank you a lot. Let me first of all say congratulations to John Staum and to his elected officers.

I would like to say thank you to Howard Vander Clute and his staff in Kansas City and Cooper T. Holt and his staff in Washington, D.C., for helping me achieve my goals for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. But, I would also like to say thank you to the Chair Officers in this convention this year.

I would like to say thank you to the membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary, and especially thank you to John Staum who I have been privileged to have served as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and to Cliff Olson, who I was privileged to serve as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. A lot of credit goes to these people for giving me the guidance and showing me the ways of leadership to accomplish the goals that we did accomplish.

Of course, to my lovely wife, Jeanette, and my family for giving me the time.

I know that I did not make everyome happy during my year as Commander-in-Chief, but when you become the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, sometimes the decisions are hard. I remember the article from Dave Stockman and the many, many letters I received in support and the many, many letters I received opposing my stand. One comes to mind and this will be the member I will probably remember for many, many years.

One afternoon I received a letter, I think the gentleman was from Pennsylvania, I don't recall his name, and I thought the doctrine was a good decision for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. That gentleman wrote and said—he said, "Don't fire Stockman; fire Cameron."

Then there was the episode in the California Post and the Political Action Committee and the various group actions in Washington, D.C., entitlement of rights and the list goes on and on. Commitments for the POW's and the MIA's.

I hope that as Commander-in-Chief I have served you well.

One thing I would like to say, I was born and raised in a rural area, and to me everyone is important. As I visited the Posts, over two thousand since October, I tried to make each individual member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary feel that they were just as important as I was as Commander-in-Chief, because they were a vital link in our great organization.

John, once again, I say to you thank you. Thank you, Norm. To my other officers, thank you for a job well done. To Earl Stock, I wish the best. At any time that I can assist you, feel free or any of you, feel free to call me.

God bless you and keep up the good work, and I make one promise. I think it was MacArthur who said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away. Young VFW members never quit, but stay in the game.

Thank you all.

I want everybody to meet my lovely wife, Jeannette Cameron, and she has been beautiful. I can't say how much I love you and appreciate what you did.

Thank you again.

Acceptance Speech by Commander-in-Chief Staum

Commander-in-Chief **Staum**. Thank you Billy, for those kind remarks. Before I give my acceptance this morning, I would like to convey to you a view of my personal remarks.

In just a month or two, I will round out my twenty-eighth year as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Twenty-eight years is a long time but I feel like a rookie when I have been able to talk to people like Jimmie VanZandt, who was Commander-in-Chief fifty years ago, and to some others who have been members for forty years. Twenty-eight years ago I never dreamed of being Commander-in-Chief because I knew very litle about this fabulous organization of overseas combat veterans. A lot has happened in twenty-eight years, and I know a great deal about the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

As I stand here today, before you in Dallas, Texas, during my first moments as Commander-in-Chief, I am a much wiser man than I was twenty-eight years ago. I am wiser because of the experiences that the Veterans of Foreign Wars have given me. I am wiser because of what the Veterans of Foreign Wars has enabled me to see as I toured my state, and then the world as a Chair Officer.

I am wiser because of the wisdom imparted to my by my predecessors in this office.

And I am wiser because of the support so many people who have shared their love, compassion and dedication with me.

As every Commander-in-Chief who has accepted this gavel before me, I owe thanks to you, acknowledgement to thousands of Comrades who helped pave my way, who helped clear the obstacles from my path. My heart is filled with gratitude for the loyal members of the Coon Rapids Post 9625 and its Ladies Auxiliary and the 7th District of Minnesota, and in fact, the entire Department of Minnesota, for the loyal support and encouragement that you heaped upon me from the very beginning.

Your hard work and dedication and money put me here today.

To my wife and my son and daughter, Mark and Nancy, my best words today are simply a straight forward thank you. Thank you for your love and for allowing the Veterans of Foreign Wars to become such an integral part of your lives and for bearing with me in my dedication to the Veterans of Foreign Wars throughout the years. Each of you know the depth of my appreciation, my son-in-law, Robert, and daughter-in-law, Linda, are also a part of my family along with my beautiful granddaughter Lindsay. They, too, have been a beautiful support and help to me.

I feel wonderful sharing this day with them.

Also, during the last two years, I was privileged to serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief under Cliff Olson and as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief under Billy Ray Cameron. Those men were among the best the Veterans of Foreign Wars could ever produce. They were outstanding leaders, superlative decision makers and both dedicated to the ideals that formed the basis of our organization.

I owe them a debt of thanks for guiding and teaching me and helping me grow as a leader. Because of their wisdon and experience having gone through the chairs, I now know what a well-drilled team of officers can do for our great organization.

Both Norman Staab and Earl Stock are dedicated to the tasks, burdens and responsibilities at hand. We have already talked and planned for changes and plans we face.

I feel the responsibilities of the Commander-in-Chief, knowing that the Veterans of Foreign Wars will continue to grow and to succeed with the team of Staum, Staab and Stock.

To Norm—

When we finish this, we are going to start a law firm because we should make money with that name.

To Norm and Earl, I owe my congratulations and loyal support for the coming year. I know they will be behind me every step of the way.

During these acknowledgements, I purposely saved a very special thank you for the very last.

To every member of our entire Ladies Auxiliary, I want to express my most sincere thanks for the service, quality and life that you bring to the VFW. As I have traveled this nation during the last two years, I have been overwhelmed by your hospitality, generosity and good work. I commend you all and I wish you great success in the marvelous humanitarian service that you provide across our nation and the world. Under the leadership of Lucile Suchina your membership and reputation is certain to grow and I look forward to working with Lucile as we both "Reach for New Horizons."

Our theme for the year 1985 and 1986 is "Reach for New Horizons!"

Reach for New Horizons!

When you hear those words, what comes to mind?

Maybe you say, here's another new year for Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and another Commander-in-Chief trying to make his place in history. Maybe reaching for new horizons means continuing the campaign to enlist new members as we head for our thirty-first year of continuous growth.

Maybe it means looking and reaching for new Posts which are on the horizon, because the demography of our nation is changing and new communities are developing and subdivisions are being carved out of what was once farmland or old neighborhoods. These are fertile areas for new Posts and new opportunities for those of us who live and breathe the VFW and they are cetainly new horizons. With new Posts and new and more members we can seek out more and more and even more opportunities to do what our organization does so well—that is serve the veterans who cannot serve themselves and need our help.

New horizons to me means new opportunities. Today during these first few minutes of my leadership, I want to tell you how I, Commander-in-Chief, John S. Staum, see the challenges that face us and what I see on the horizon.

It is important that you know how I am going to do business. I am going to be straightforward and on the record with our membership and the Congress. And, I am going to ask every man and woman in the VFW to help me.

It is time for us to take a close look at our VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Because of recent events, certain portions of our By-Laws need to be looked into and refined so that the VFW can speak forcefully with one voice. I plan to seek out a committee to do that!

When I look at the activity of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee so far in the 99th Congress, I sense that it is the least active of all the Senate Committees, and that, to me, is intolerable. Mark my words, we will take on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee head to head, if necessary.

Those who know me well know that I am not a rabble rouser. Neither am I a pussycat. In true VFW style I plan to tell it like it is. And soon each and every comrade and each and every member of Congress will know where I come from; where I stand on the issues and where the VFW stands.

In assuming command of the VFW, I will Reach for New Horizons by requiring all of us in leadership positions and every National Officer to be even more responsive to our two million members and to the twenty-six million more veterans who are not our members by fostering great grassroots involvement in shaping our posture with respect to national security and veterans' benefits and entitlements.

Let me be frank with you! I am sick and tired of the Office of Management and Budget repeatedly trying to emasculate veterans' benefits by recommending such asinine innovations as straight line budgets, a means test for non-service-connected health care, downsizing VA hospitals, reducing most VA Regional Offices to nothing more than contact points and contracting out jobs that have been reserved for veterans by law.

I am sick and tired of the bleeding hearts in Congress and the private sector and the news media who would delete veterans' benefits in order to finance programs for those who have contributed little or nothing to our great nation.

I am sick and tired of Senators who have the audacity to stand on the Senate floor and ridicule wartime veterans who qualify under the law for veterans benefits.

I am sick and tired of all those in Congress and the government and the news media and in Hollywood who take joy in denigrating the military and veterans for no good reason whatsoever. And, I am sick and tired about the news media's sympathetic focus on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The media seems to have forgotten that Hiroshima and Nagasaki led to V-J Day, they seem to have forgotten the inhumane treatment suffered by American Prisoners of War and the people of Southeast Asia, and they seem to have forgotten the war in the first place. So, let us remind them—there would not have been a Hiroshima if there had not been a Pearl Harbor.

It is not my nature to be sick and tired. I am a doer and intend to do something about my concerns immediately. I want to reunite veterans and this country. I want Congress to know that the VFW is here.

I plan to greatly expand and enhance our lines of communication with every member of Congress. To accomplish this, I am asking each of you in the VFW chain of command of each state to establish personal contact with your Congressional delegations in Washington and with the key-staff personnel in your local congressional offices.

Chair Officers, Adjutant Quartermasters, Service Officers, Past Commanders-in-Chief, Council Members and members of our National Legislative Committee, which I will soon appoint, routinely receive copies of VFW testimony given before Congress regarding pending legislation. The resolutions passed by this convention and our priority goals will soon be published. I ask you to become involved with our resolutions; use them to our advantage or we will lose the benefits that Congress has previously provided to veterans out of respect and compassion for their sacrifice and service.

The 99th Congress, with a Republican controlled Senate and a Democratic House, will decide whether or not veterans retain benefits and the hospital and medical care system that is necessary to provide quality care for veterans. They will also decide how much money will continue to be drained from the VA budget to feed the insatiable appetite of the social welfare programs. Make no mistake, comrades, veterans will either win or lose the battle this year. It is up to you and to me and to us all to make our voices heard—loud and clear.

What happens if we lose? I ask you, what is at stake? The answer is medical care! Medical care for needy war veterans, that is the bottom line of what is at stake. That's what we lose. Under this administration OMB plans to shrink the VA health care system. Right now, before this year ends, there will be 6,000 fewer health care personnel than the VA medical system must have. And, OMB has announced that it intends to eliminate another 8,000 health care personnel by 1990. OMB is pushing hard for Congressional support to limit the size of any new hospital to the need of only service-connected veterans in a given area. In the last ten years 16,000 VA hospital beds have been eliminated. Gone! Next year, hospital and nursing care beds will not be the 90,000 mandated by Congress. There will be only 88,656 beds. Financial and personnel constraints, coupled with a reduced number of beds today, result in more than 30,000 veterans being denied care each month, 360,000 a year. Even though David Stockman is gone, his ideas are still lingering.

If these trends continue, before long the VA will only be able to care for service-connected veterans and only the very poorest non-service connected disabilities. The remaining poor and medically indigent veterans will be dumped into the faltering medicare and medicaid systems from which the President wants to cut an additional $27 billion by fiscal year 1988.

Think about what I just said. Remember that even though some veterans' ailments are non-service-connected, in war there are no unwounded soldiers.

I wonder how many members of Congress realize that today's 28 million living veterans and their dependents represent 36 percent of the voting population. Yet, considering inflation, today's VA budget for medical care is less than it was ten years ago.

You have heard it said before and now I will say it again. The VA is at a crossroad with respect to fulfilling its health care mission. It is patently obvious that VA funding and personnel must be increased over the next 20 years to care for the aging veteran population which requires three times more health care than younger veterans.

The battle lines are drawn.

We either win in this 99th Congress or we lose permanently. And I, like you, am not accustomed to defeat. No! When it comes to veterans legislation we will fight for what is right every time and every place we speak. We will fight in the Congress. We will fight in the Office of Management and Budget and, yes, we will even fight in the White House if necessary. When we take our concerns and our battles to the halls of Congress or the Oval Office, we are going to remind those we meet of the words of President Calvin

Coolidge who warned that "the nation which forgets its defenders will be forgotten." While I stand here on the platform of this beautiful convention center, in the heart of Texas, I take pride in knowing the important role that the VFW plays in keeping our country strong and great. Through our forums and patriotic events we make a point to all Americans, a point that should be made more often: National Security is everyone's business.

Certainly every man, woman and young adult in our country should be concerned with our National Security. As our Constitution states so eloquently, it is "we the people" who are to "provide for the common defense." And that means all the people. We dare not leave the responsibilities of defense to chance or to the judgment of a select few. Everyone must participate in National Security in some way.

Throughout the past 86 years the VFW has been the front runner of veterans organizations when it comes to involvement in our National Security. We have to keep pressure on our government and on our adversaries because of our experience, our expertise and our involvement. We have all been overseas and we all know that war is no joy to those who have to fight.

National Security and Foreign Affairs is an area of interest to us that has many horizons to reach for because of its complexity and potential dangers.

During this last year, the VFW reached a new horizon. Our Past Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, put his weight behind the POW/MIA issue. He started new initiatives that offer great promise of resolving the fate of our missing men once and for all.

He said that if North Vietnam provided the fullest possible accounting of our missing men, he would ask the VFW to consider urging the U.S. Government to normalize relations with Hanoi. This initiative set things in motion. Since then, the government of Vietnam has said it wants to resolve the issue of our missing men within the next two years, and our government has readily accept this offer. I want to thank Commander-in-Chief Cameron for setting the course for this new horizon, and I promise him that the VFW will remain forever and always dedicated to the final accounting of our comrades at the earliest opportunity.

But, comrades, we must recognize there are other horizons to reach for if this nation is to remain free and secure. We must recognize that we face new attacks on our national and external security.

In the past year it again has become fashionable to attack our military services. The men and women who serve with absolute devotion and distinction in our Armed Forces have been attacked by bureaucrats who avoided military service themselves. At the same time, other public servants are willing to sacrifice key elements of our National defense to preclude welfare budget cuts they are unwilling to face themselves.

Remember the words of our late President, John F. Kennedy, who said, "There is no discount price on defense. The free world must be prepared at all times to face the perils of global nuclear war, limited conventional war and covert guerilla activities." We agree with President Kennedy's words. We do not want a bargain basement defense. But neither do we want to pay exorbitant prices to greedy contractors for shabby equipment to protect our security.

Today we are at a time when the new Russian leadership is preparing to renew its assault on our National Security. Mr. Gorbachev, the Communist Party boss, may wear expensive Italian suits, but beneath the fancy tailoring he is still a Communist who is dedicated to the unrivalled supremacy of the Soviet Union. He has engaged in a propaganda offense to divide the NATO Alliance—and he is using the arms negotiations to try to strangle our strategic defense program.

The Soviets have not been able to digest Afghanistan into their system yet, but they are already hungry for new opportunities to exploit our weaknesses.

Let me point out another weakness that has become a major threat to our internal security. And, it's one that angers us all. Almost every week we hear that another spy ring or high technology smuggling operation has been exposed. Our high tech defense industries have been infiltrated, and our Navy's Nuclear Submarines have become more vulnerable because of Soviet espionage. Even our Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI's counterintelligence departments have been penetrated.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Communist Intelligence services have become so bold that they don't just steal secrets anymore. Now they steal the technology and weapons also.

When the communists can smuggle nearly a hundred U.S. made helicopters into North Korea, the Enemy of our South Korean ally; when a U.S. Army Officer helps smuggle nine million dollars worth of missiles to Iran; and when the Soviets use U.S. Technology to increase the effectiveness of their nuclear missile force, then it is time to recognize we have a serious problem here at home. The problem is growing more serious every day.

As a nation we have been very lucky. Most of us have not had to look at the face of terrorism first hand as have some of our fellow citizens. But terrorism is now an international network, aided and instigated by Communist and radical third world countries. The international terrorist network is reaching out to cross our borders at any time.

It is time we recognized that the evidence points to a full scale offensive against our internal security by the Communist Intelligence services. It is time we recognized that our internal security is so weak it seriously endangers our National Security and it is time we urge the Congress and the Administration to review our internal security and take action, in accordance with our laws, to keep our secrets locked up and our citizens safe from terrorists.

I said we would reach for new horizons. I see the internal security of these United States and our southern border which comprises the nations of Central America as concerns to you and me that we cannot let slip over the horizon. We must keep these concerns in sight.

I have vowed to myself and I promise you that I will bring our National Security and Foreign Affairs resolutions to the personal attention of the responsible officials of our government in Washington and to our allies overseas. This year, the VFW will demand action on the resolutions that we consider to be America's highest priority.

I have now told you some of my priorities and I expressed my belief that we must tackle our problems head on to make our voices heard and our power felt.

But as hard as I try, I cannot do it alone and I cannot do it with only the support and assistance of our National Chair Officers and our professional staff. Power lies with the people and in the VFW our power lies with our membership. There are over two million of us in almost 10,000 Posts.

I want you to come to me and the other Chair Officers with your ideas and your problems when we visit your Posts, your Departments or your Conferences. And, by the same token, you must call upon, write or visit your representatives in Congress and relay our VFW concerns about veterans' programs and National Security. Remember, power lies with the people. I am going to be tough—you be tough. The VFW will continue to be tough.

When it is all over this year, we are going to look back at what Congress does. And, if Congress kills veterans' programs, we may have only ourselves to blame, unless we speak with one voice.

Throughout this year as I reach for New Horizons, I am going to be guided by something I learned in the Marine Corp many years ago. That is, no man is a leader until his appointment is ratified in the hearts and minds of his men.

I ask for your support and your blessing.

Let us go together to reach all those new horizons.

I thank you.

CLOSING OF 86TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

[Following the conclusion of the New Post drawings and the Parade of Transmittals, Commander-in-Chief Staum declared the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States closed sine die.]

NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BY-LAWS, RULES AND PROCEDURE AND RITUAL

Chairman: Larry W. Rivers, Post 1736, Louisiana

Vice Chairman: Ray Gallagher, Past Commander-in-Chief, South Dakota

(Room E-302, Dallas Convention Center)

Department	Name	Post No.
Alabama	Telfair J. Mashburn	358
Arizona	Francis H. J. MacDonnell	9972
Arkansas	J. P. Cockrill, Inspector General	
	Wendal Gills	7516
California	George S. Bellon, C of A	
	Richard L. Anderson	5888
	Lloyd L. Lindquist	3173
	Kenneth Robbins	85
	Walter W. Thompson	5059
Colorado	Arthur W. Burress	1
Connecticut	Dominic Romano	7330
Delaware	Paul R. Phillips, Jr	2863
District of Columbia	Paul Wampler, Jr.	833
Florida	Lester M. Davis, C of A	
	John M. Carney	4643
Georgia	Olin C. Wright	7331
Germany	Elmer L. Matheke, C of A	
Idaho	Donald E. Sears	889
Illinois	George R. Cramer	1485
Indiana	E. Spencer Walton	360
Kansas	Roger Sellers	6654
	Raymond N. Stotler	1714
Maine	Robert C. Jordan, C of A	
	Merritt H. Jones	6977
Maryland	Ray Boyle	10028
	W. Leroy Maddox	9083
	Thomas E. Ryan	10080
Massachusetts	Timothy J. Murphy, Past C-in-C	
	Clifford G. Olson, Jr., Past C-in-C	
	Joseph A. Scerra, Past C-in-C	
	Gardner S. McWilliams	2425
	Paul Spera	144
Michigan	Angus MacLeod	6782
Minnesota	Alcuin G. Loehr	4847
Missouri	Frank A. Runions	7900
Montana	Thomas Pouliot, Judge Advocate General	
Nebraska	Carl Schroeder	3304
New Jersey	Arthur R. Morin, C of A	
	Walter F. Merklin	5698
	Robert E. Wallace	1851
New York	Joseph J. Lombardo, Past C-in-C	
	Lavern Fenton	6239
	John Lava	601
	Earl L. Stock, Jr.	3275
North Carolina	Conway T. Newsome	2615
North Dakota	Richard Grenz	1326
Ohio	John Fyre	451
	George D. Miller	1275
Oklahoma	Jack Naifeh	577
Oregon	Warren McCoy	4750
Pacific Areas	Donald O. Webster	9957
Pennsylvania	James E. Van Zandt, Past C-in-C	
	Morton Fromm	1630
Texas	Clifford Teer	2148

Department	Name	Post No.
Vermont	Curtis Brown	758
Virginia	James L. Booth	2216
Washington	Thomas Schuster	969
West Virginia	Sam Angotti	548
Wisconsin	Walter Hogan	6498

COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Chairman: Ray R. Soden, Past Commander-in-Chief, Illinois

Vice Chairman: Stacey S. Foster, Post 3074, North Carolina

(Room E-410, Dallas Convention Center)

Department	Name	Post No.
Alabama	Thomas B. Dean	2760
	Clarence Gardner	3407
	Joe Panell	8699
	Thomas G. Pflueger	4919
	Tommy Richardson	2760
Alaska	Vernon L. Jones	10252
	Lee G. Lewis	5559
	William Timmons	9978
Arizona	Harry A. Kosht	4903
	Robert W. Lacey	720
	Ernesto E. Melendez	426
Arkansas	Bobby D. Hoggard	4517
	Verlin Williams	1991
	Bill Wilson	5225
California	Ed Garcia	9223
	Robert Joost	8063
	Ralph Lopez	7420
	Andrew Skinner	2324
	Dale Willey	6874
Colorado	Mike Bokan	1771
	James D. Fiedler	10578
	Leroy Follett	2371
	Donald A Nikkel	1
	John Sentena	4051
Connecticut	Earl Dunton	1724
	E. Richard Michaud	4740
Delaware	Edward T. Shetzler	3792
	William D. Thomas	7234
District of Columbia	Claudio Pedery	5471
Florida	Harry E. Burroughs	1658
	Robert Humphrey	8681
	Harold Schult	4643
	Paul Yohman	7115
Georgia	Julian Brisendine	5290
	George Pugh	9147
	Dallas Reeves	2785
Germany	Mary Miklosey	10692
Idaho	Bud Freeman	3012
	Glenn A. Phillips	7137
Illinois	Maurice Kerckhove	2153
	James McClenahan	2859
Indiana	Edward Hardesty	1405
	Charles Scott	261
Iowa	Paul B. Brown	733
	Ronald Petersen	9128
	Al Voss	5515
Kansas	Charles E. Marshall	3111
	Troxal Mellinger	1650

Department	Name	Post No.
	Harold Prochaska	1980
Kentucky	Lawrence E. Henderson	5484
	Emmett C. Johnson	5662
Louisiana	Edward P. Gros	5097
	Robert V. Martin	8973
Maine	Roland Houle	3335
	William Lessard	9955
	Peter F. Miesburger	4389
Maryland	George Davis	8276
	James H. Lohman	9619
	Carl N. Thomas	8950
Massachusetts	Gordon Crosby	1526
	James Murray	669
	Robert Reaney	5834
	Joseph V. Riley	1093
Michigan	John Konicki	4499
	Paul M. Savage	2254
	Elmer Wurster	7546
Minnesota	Everett Carlsen	878
	Robert E. Eliason	1852
	Kelly Ferber	612
	Dean Means	1642
Mississippi	A. O. Cummings	4272
	William Easterling	4272
Missouri	Melvin L. Page	2069
	Jerry Wood	5606
Montana	Al Howarth	1087
	Phillip C. Montegna	1087
Nebraska	George Alexander	8256
	James E. Burt	5136
	LeRoy Wilson	2543
Nevada	Bill Breen	1002
New Hampshire	Arthur H. Field	168
	Robert Madigan	483
New Jersey	Carl Higgins	10259
	Leo A. Kauff	2833
	Vincent Tamburino	2319
New Mexico	David Benavidez	3347
	Richard L. Dindinger	3015
New York	Charles Schnobrich	3068
North Carolina	Dewey Beauchamp	891
	John Best	891
	Carl Duncan	2417
	Franklin G. Hawkins	5483
	Fred Howell	8989
	J. Fred Moore	3006
	John Ochoa	9960
North Dakota	William I. Stepp	707
	Theodore Will	1326
Ohio	James Comedy	3383
	William Leethy	5436
	Arthur Taber	1238
	William Young	2926
Oklahoma	W. C. Millard	577
	George Morris	1857
	Truman O'Dell	539
Oregon	Thomas Duffy	661
	E. J. McGlothin	81
Pacific Areas	Paul Siem	9957
Pennsylvania	Charles Feltenberger	2435
	Frank A. Jaroszenski	8795
	Edward R. Jenko	47
	George Kosanovich	1989
	John F. Rhodes	5382
Rhode Island	John Bucci	10011

Department	Name	Post No.
	John Sivo	2396
South Carolina	Henry S. Allen, Sr	641
	William H. Chapman	5996
	Harry M. Faris	6732
South Dakota	Donald R. Hisek	5969
	Robert Petrik	7319
Tennessee	Larry L. Dalton	1289
	Ronnie L. Davis	1618
Texas	James P. Montgomery	7871
	James W. Summers	8925
Utah	Dan Alleman	5787
	Jack Hawkins	4355
Vermont	William Demo	1767
Virginia	William T. Allen	5500
	Douglas S. Hayes	647
	James E. Powers	176
	Curtis A. Smith	1033
Washington	Ed Edmiston	10018
	Andrew Martin	10018
	Neal Van Wieringen	1949
West Virginia	David W. Arigan	1064
	John F. Bennett	3081
	Ralph W. Honaker	1064
Wisconsin	Frank N. Brown	9362
	Ara L. Fish	1530
	Fabian Van Camp	10244
Wyoming	Paul Jolovich	10105
	Roland L. Thomas	1881

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

Chairman: Clyde A. Lewis, Past Commander-in-Chief, New York

Vice Chairman: J.A. Cheatham, Post 869, Kansas

(Room E-301, Dallas Convention Center)

Department	Name	Post No.
Alabama	Gerald Brock	2702
	Ben Minshew	49
	S.H. Parsons	668
Alaska	Russell K. Kruse	1685
	Delbert Smith	9785
Arizona	Donald A. Esposito	4903
	Henry L. Hart	9972
Arkansas	Robert H. Keys	2413
	Ray Simmons	9326
California	Paul W. Fox	2111
	C.W. Kelly	1744
	Joseph F. Martin	8547
	Jack Melban	3787
	Tom Pearson	7431
	Robert E. Randall	3982
	Elbert C. Thiesen	9223
	Robert Werckmann	3919
Colorado	James Bonito	1
Connecticut	Peter E. Olson	603
	Stanley G. Powell	9991
Delaware	Thomas Dickey	3238
	Edwin Moran	7447
	Harley V. Taylor	7234
District of Columbia	George A. Lange, Jr.	2400
Florida	Bernard J. Feest	7909

Department	Name	Post No.
	Paul W. Fox	2111
	Isaac R. Neely	4209
	August L. Scumaci	10209
	Edwin H. Shuman	4256
	Roscoe R. Staley	3282
	Lewis M. Stupka	4833
	Gene Westfall	10097
Georgia	Fred Bollenberg	3200
	Sammy L. Cates	6447
	Jim Fulbright	5978
Germany	Bob Donley	10415
Hawaii	Edward J. Stewart	4951
Idaho	Hilmer Johnson	889
	Paul Montgomery	3465
	John Smith	10320
Illinois	Edward Gjertsen	3579
	Vernon A. Soukup	8081
Indiana	Ralph Pigman	1114
	Orbit Scott	1114
	Wayne Smith	6728
Iowa	Earl L. Berg	3388
	Dowd J. Brandt	9662
	Russell D. Truax	5240
Kansas	Barney M. Aldridge	1432
	Daryl C. Reeder	3449
	Edward H. Sewell	6240
Kentucky	Sanford R. Boles	7099
	Paul L. Lynd	10017
Louisiana	William Procter, C of A	
	Thomas J. Franklin	4224
	Stanley J. Plessala	4222
	Elliott Zeller	5852
Maine	Philip T. Clukey	4633
	Chase M. Libby	6859
	John T. McIsaac	6977
Maryland	Joseph O. Hansen	8950
	Casimir Lukoski	6506
	Lamar Schleig	6694
	Albert C. Walsh	6694
Massachusetts	Albert J. Konan, C of A	
	Thomas Brennick	834
	William J. Madera	1702
	Angelo R. Valeriani	9209
Michigan	John Harrow	3724
	Donald Mrdjenovic	7573
	Irving M. Spencer	3080
Minnesota	Robert E. Hansen, Past C-in-C	
	Harold Genrich	1222
	Les Orten	363
	Kenneth Peterson	1782
	Raymond Thill	6587
Mississippi	Hollis Smith, C of A	
	James Brown	2539
	Gordon Estes	3962
Missouri	Fred Philipps	4219
	Arnold Theobald	3100
Montana	John E. Frieling	4047
	Charles Follick	1087
Nebraska	Theodore Moniger	2503
	Robert Rogentine	2280
Nevada	Rick Isom	2313
	Francis J. Sutton	10047
New Hampshire	John M. Packard	8546
New Jersey	Curtis G. Jackson	1297
	Harry E. Litle, Jr.	7679

Department	Name	Post No.
	Albert H. Vierling	6253
New Mexico	James Kimery	9354
	Elmo J. Whitmore	8874
New York	T. William Bossidy	7466
	Clifford E. Galbraith	7127
	Joseph T. Gumo	1582
	Domenick A. Volpe	546
North Carolina	Lyle C. Baxley	8496
	David Joe Duncan	1160
	Glenn Milliman	2401
	Lloyd Norris	5631
	Coy Young	3074
North Dakota	Neil Fricke	1326
	Charles Godke	753
Ohio	Lawrence J. Krugman, C of A	
	Melvin Bennett	3290
	Thomas Dudzik	3613
	Norman Eckhart	1079
	Edward H. Marzec	3483
Oklahoma	William P. Beane	4977
	William E. Finch	4578
Oregon	John DeWees	3965
	Charles Humphreys	293
	Jack Kelly	3973
	Dave Klym	3973
Pennsylvania	Frank C. Hilton, Past C-in-C	
	William C. Allen	7213
	George Diem	3376
	William Egan	7069
	Cardon Johnson	47
	Joseph Marcella	5286
	Joseph Salvo	5267
Rhode Island	Thomas Devine	183
	Webster Pidgeon	45
South Carolina	Glen R. Houck	3433
	Billy P. Randall	6736
	F.D. Williamson, Jr.	8760
South Dakota	Albert Dittman	2118
	John Hurney	628
	William J. Radigan	3061
Tennessee	W.S. Barker	5154
	C.F. Bearden, Jr	1289
	R.P. Locke	5066
	J.R. Wilson	4780
Texas	C.W. Buchanan, C of A	
	Herman Constable, Jr.	4458
	Edward S. Ford	10373
Utah	Gary Clark	7398
	Kenneth Smith	8307
Vermont	Fred Fenn	10038
	Edward Q. Smith	8284
Virginia	Walter G. Bryan	4809
	Richard D. Priester	3160
	Clifford Williford	3160
Washington	Rev. Kenneth D. Killin	3429
	Robert Lounsbury	379
	James Raymond	1040
West Virginia	John W. Feller	8238
	Eugene Walker	4484
Wisconsin	Carl H. Decker	8171
	E. Edward Mortensen	1391
	Loran F. Patton	8057
	Msgr. Alfred Schneider	6179

Department	Name	Post No.
Wyoming	John Merganthal	3558
	M.J. Ornelas	1881

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Chairman: H.R. Rainwater, Past Commander-in-Chief, California

Vice Chairman: Al DeStefano, Post 4364, Florida

(Room Parquet D, Dallas Convention Center)

Department	Name	Post No.
Alabama	Charles Stephens	3128
	Jerald O. Thomason	4919
Alaska	Charles Cowles	3629
	Ed Frank	9978
Arizona	George K. Mead	9400
	Billie E. Stuart	549
Arkansas	John Haynie	2413
	Fred Suddarth	4548
California	Wally K. Chun	8615
	David G. Saldana	8620
	Eugene F. Salmons	3197
	Kenneth Stevens	9223
	Jerome Watson	1744
Colorado	Merle R. Cushatt	101
	Harold Mason	9644
	Tory A. Wasinger	9644
Connecticut	Carl Pelletier	7790
	Americo J. Tancredi	9929
Delaware	Rev. John H. K. Miller	6483
	Ronald L. Mosher	3420
	George A. Seidle	3420
District of Columbia	William E. Gray, Jr.	2400
Florida	Rev. Warren F. Braun	1966
	James M. Hiles	2550
	Raymond E. Lindberg	4256
	Lawrence J. Martell	10138
Georgia	T.D. Culpepper	5032
	J.B. Smith, Jr.	5376
	Rance Taylor	4830
	Richard Willis	6124
Germany	J.B. Virgil	9659
Idaho	Stan Dorsey	3886
	Glenn Scott	2146
Illinois	James W. Felton, Past C-in-C	
	Louis Kosinar	6863
	Dwight Tanner, Jr.	9759
Indiana	Robert Carey	748
	Felix Knauer	1550
Iowa	William D. Bottoms	1973
	Paul Hurrell	1856
Kansas	Clyde Hatcher	1254
	Bernard Holt	1432
	Robert Howell	7253
	Jay Ritchie	1022
Kentucky	E. Ray Hensley	2921
	Michael W. Hess	6423
Louisiana	Joseph Guidry, Sr.	3121
	Walden S. Hymel	3267
	John A. Lutz	6640
	Alva Nash	4856
	Paul Renard	2130
Maine	Arthur Baker	832

Department	Name	Post No.
	Ralph Vigeant	616
Maryland	Edward G. Fowler, Jr.	2677
	Ervin F. Rothenbuhler	2562
	Thomas Rye	6506
Massachusetts	George Jardine	6907
	Dennis Reardon	1787
	Vincent P. Reed, Jr.	6712
	Leroy Williams, Jr.	6189
Michigan	Robert W. Goossen	1735
	Max Hetherington	1146
	George Kosnich	2645
Minnesota	Patrick Bohmer	246
	Michael Brainard	6587
	James LaHay	246
	Ted Theodorsen	6320
	Arthur M. Thielges	871
Mississippi	James E. Baker	4488
	Roy Colston	3962
	Guy Thornton	687
	Arthur W. Triplett, Sr.	2539
Missouri	Paul Fleurdelys	4294
	Orval Gilbert	6137
	William Woodard	1000
Montana	Dale Bond	4813
	Dan Norton	1125
Nebraska	Vernon L. Fleshman	3753
	Robert A. Gall	2543
	Wayne King	2280
Nevada	Bill Fletcher	9165
	Frank Risewick	10047
New Jersey	Ray Blount	7679
	John T. Doonan	2833
	Joe Heuer	335
	George Van Allen	7504
New Mexico	Antonio Grijalva	10124
	Thomas B. Williamson	8874
New York	Ralph U. DeMarco	885
	John Dombroski	901
	William Ward	5199
North Carolina	James Black	4059
	Dorris Derrick	6018
	Ronald P. Green	5631
	Harold Hill	8496
	Harlan C. LaBar	2057
	Charles McBryde	5631
	Claude Jack Ragan	6397
	Carroll Smith	3074
North Dakota	Arthur Streed	762
	Rhiney Weber	2764
Ohio	Paul Crosby	3424
	Paul Martindale	1060
	Glen A. Rohr	9795
Oklahoma	James Newman	4876
Oregon	Robert Bell	4943
	R.E. Below	1383
	Harry K. Goreham	4039
Pennsylvania	G.F. Kolb	7215
	Paul Kutzler	4714
	Joseph Meredick	4954
	Albert V. Palumbo	167
	Floyd W. Rouser	8861
	Bernard Schultz	411
	Frank Zenzer	676
Rhode Island	Manuel V. Oliver, C of A	
	Joseph Maiorano	174

Department	Name	Post No.
	John Mumford	8955
South Carolina	Jim Franks	10330
	Ken Hartman	9539
	R.L. Hight, Jr.	3181
	Francis L'Hommedieu	3142
South Dakota	A.J. Heggestad, C of A	
	O.A. Amundsen	3061
	Don R. Byerly	1776
	William H. Tarrell	1640
Tennessee	Henry Black	5266
	William H. Berkley, Jr.	1291
Texas	Arnold J. Demone	3392
	Ira Parks, Jr.	6012
	Robert Speake	2205
	Don Williams	6796
Utah	W. Howard Fite, C of A	
	Sanford Rosenthal	3586
Vermont	George Cioffi	648
	Robert Geisler	1034
Virginia	Otis N. Berry	637
	James Hawthorne	9954
Washington	Eric Sandstrom, Past C-in-C	
	Martin Goit	4992
	Wiljo Poliari	7825
	Robert Riedel	969
West Virginia	Richard M. Dawson, C of A	
	Happy C. McCoy	548
	William H. Smith	573
Wisconsin	Monte D. Hanson, C of A	
	Gerald Burkel	5373
	Clarence Brunner	659
	Eric Schneider	1691
Wyoming	Ernest Fender	3628

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Chairman, Political Action Committee: John J. Stang,

Past Commander-in-Chief, Kansas

(Room S-303, Dallas Convention Center)

Department	Name	Post No.
Alabama	Oscar Bates	3407
Alaska	Robert Anderson	9978
Arizona	James Wilhelm	541
Arkansas	Dr. Norris Calaway	5225
California	Mickey R. Conroy	9203
Colorado	Lewis M. Romans	322
Connecticut	John Burns	2097
Delaware	E. Hart Davis	838
District of Columbia	Mitchell A. Mabardy	346
Florida	James W. Carlisle	10127
Georgia	H.E. Isaacs	4904
Germany	Harold Hedges	9334
Hawaii	Wilbert Tom	3850
Idaho	James Shepperd	889
Illinois	William R. Moran	2240
Indiana	John J. Fish	8972
Kansas	R.R. Whipple	846
Kentucky	Thomas J. Atkins	6423
Louisiana	Dick Staggs	2238
Maine	Leta B. Russell	3198

Department	Name	Post No.
Maryland	J. Douglas Forrest	1936
Massachusetts	John T. Tynan	561
Michigan	Eric L. Halvorsen	5065
Minnesota	Sam Jacobson	141
Mississippi	Lowell E. Gibson	3806
Missouri	Francis St. John	3060
Montana	Willis H. Wilson	1125
Nebraska	Robert A. Oswald	4912
Nevada	Alfred Alleman	10047
New Hampshire	John W. Smart	483
New Jersey	Vincent Brinkerhoff	335
New Mexico	Glen Barbee	9515
New York	John R. Ray	516
North Carolina	Hubert Perkins	1160
North Dakota	Orville Gullickson	7438
Ohio	Jake Brewer	8794
Oklahoma	William J. Rodriguez	1857
Pennsylvania	Robert Doutrich	7294
Rhode Island	Armando C. Azzinaro	8955
South Carolina	Gary Littlefield	3181
South Dakota	Howard Hermanson	791
Tennessee	Joe A. Murphy, Jr.	1289
Texas	John F. Simmons	6796
Utah	Bruce Andersen	3586
Vermont	Samuel R. Haskins	1034
Virginia	Kenneth Edwards	609
Washington	Ted Adler	379
West Virginia	Paul Dickerson	3028
Wisconsin	Charles Arndt	8637
Wyoming	Charles E. Fresorger	579

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chairman: James R. Currieo, Past Commander-in-Chief, Arizona

Vice Chairmen: Al Feher, Post 5171, Kentucky, John P. Flynn, Member-at-Large

(Room Parquet C, Dallas Convention Center)

Department	Name	Post No.
Alabama	Pete Frauenhoffer	5658
	Jack Ivy	2702
	Clayton Pitman	4919
Alaska	Leander P. Carr	9978
	Gene Corbin	9365
	Leo Nunley	9365
	Robert Smith	9978
Arizona	John J. Schroeder	3632
	William J. Silva	836
Arkansas	Karl Ford	2259
	Perry Hickman	2869
	Jim Roof, Sr.	3246
	Charles Wright	8347
California	Lee T. Bookout	5888
	Wayne Brooks	4647
	James Dobbs	67
	Cedric I. Gould	2563
	Robert L. Johnson	3261
Colorado	Vincent A. LaCapra	4267
	Earl E. Yates	1
Connecticut	Everett Butler	1672
	Michael T. Gorman	2097
	Henry LeFevre	9965

Department	Name	Post No.
Delaware	Paul D. Taylor	5447
District of Columbia	Hugh D. Seckinger, Jr.	427
Florida	Wesley R. Baumberger	9272
	Frank J. Deely	3918
	Lesley J. Louthen	2380
	William R. Miller	7909
	Peter Puentes	6180
Georgia	J.W. Bohanan	5290
	John F. Gwizdak	5080
	Doyle Roberts	4346
Germany	Willis T. Alger	10658
	Jerry C. Higgins	10506
	Lee Moore	10592
Hawaii	Frank A. Candalisa	10276
Idaho	Birnie Phillips	7137
Illinois	Edward Jarnell, Jr.	8081
	Eugene Karban	7980
	Robert J. McMahon	2298
Indiana	Arthur J. Fellwock, Past C-in-C	
	James J. Thiel, C of A	
	John R. Klapak, Sr.	802
	Edward F. Sanders	360
	Lenas G. Weisheit	1114
Iowa	Darrel Miller	1565
	Arlene Neary	1623
	Melvin Rucker	1655
	Howard Tellier	5240
Kansas	Charles E. Cook	2864
	H.L. Hatfield	869
	Morris J. Krouse	112
	Fred Weigel, Jr.	6240
Kentucky	Elwood Joiner	1913
	John Paul Jones	1993
Louisiana	Cecil Gould	3799
	Richard F. Lombard	3789
	Guilliam Moore, Jr.	3686
Maine	Arch C. Roll	6977
	John L. Stehli	5986
Maryland	Raymond D. Brennan, Jr.	8950
	Lawrence E. Seng	7472
	John G. Simmons	751
Massachusetts	Charles W. Greenan, Jr.	7423
	Rev. John Leonard	639
	Angelo A. Santella	4524
	Carmen Scrow	1822
	Frank Tucker	10339
	A. Paul White	685
Michigan	Dino Costantini	1278
	Cecil McGoon	2780
	Donald L. Nettler	3140
Minnesota	Robert H. Mares, C of A	
	Ralph Braun	2853
	John J. Erpelding	3144
	Robert Larson	6206
	John L. O'Neill, Jr.	6845
	John F. Quint	425
Mississippi	Bernard McClelland	2618
	Steve W. Neal	79
	Fred Sullivan	4735
Missouri	Roland Petering	7900
	Calvin Vogelsang	3838
Montana	Robert T. Merrill, Past C-in-C	
	Kevin Maguire	1087
Nebraska	William H. Taylor, Sr., C of A	
	James C. Kanaley	8334

Department	Name	Post No.
	Ben Stahl	3421
Nevada	Sandy Spicer	1103
	Jack Williams	2350
New Hampshire	Robert Provost	8214
	Daley E. Whipple	799
New Jersey	Albert Bartocci	1941
	Charles E. Kinney	1439
	John R. Murray	3620
	V. Wayne Seafreed	2833
New Mexico	Manuel Evaro, C of A	
	Kenneth B. Crouch	10124
	Margarito Maes	1547
New York	Wolfgang Nauke	1469
	Edward Papantonio	271
	Rev. Albert G. Salmon	6912
North Carolina	Harry Adams	6088
	Robert J. Bowers	5631
	Bobby G. Canupp	6480
	Preston Garris	2615
	James C. Rich	5483
	Fred Sigmon	6513
	Tony Taylor	9337
North Dakota	Kent Anderson	9068
	Harold Utecht	2764
Ohio	Joseph J. Frankowski	5530
	Gerald Gilgenbach	8847
	William Hawk	9381
	Alfred Kovalcin	3283
	Gerald Meyers	7262
Oklahoma	William F. Cook	9265
	John Jenkins	3573
	George M. Nelson	1335
Oregon	William Beaudoin	4307
	Ed Horswill	1325
Pacific Areas	Jean Bingham	9951
Pennsylvania	Thomas J. Dougherty, C of A	
	Tavio Angelo	8861
	Wilbur Kaufmann	1599
	Anthony Longo	5205
	Raymond C. Mullin	7294
	Francis J. Palumbo	47
South Carolina	Lee D. Finley	6734
	Naff Hensley	2889
	Arnold Muir	641
South Dakota	Donald L. Ruby	628
Tennessee	Otha M. Kerr, Jr., C of A	
	George B. Simons	5064
	David W. Tipton	9629
Texas	Ed Krenek	8787
	William F. McCord	2773
	Manuel O. Rivas	8782
	Shelby Surratt	3907
Utah	Ron Hilton	4355
Vermont	John Reed	2571
	John J. Zuba	2571
Virginia	George M. Bain	8356
	John Palomares	3160
	R. Frank Sprinkle	6975
Washington	Donald Bracken	2289
	Iver Johnson	7825
	Harold McGough	4992
West Virgina	Richard J. Cooper	1976
	Don S. Maupin	437
	Earl E. Muse	8517
	Otis Shahan	3081

Department	Name	Post No.
Wisconsin	Lee Marlewski	6003
	David Zien	8729
Wyoming	Duane Clifton	2673
Foreign	Robert Whitbread	605

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE

Chairman: Patrick E. Carr, Past Commander-in-Chief, Louisiana

Vice Chairman: R.D. Smith, Jr., Past Commander-in-Chief, Georgia

(Room S-308, Dallas Convention Center)

Department	Name	Post No.
Alabama	James C. Gates	96
	Ai C. Hammond	3073
	Henry Rawls	96
Alaska	Joe DeCosta, C of A	
	Dave Kelley	9785
	Richard Moore	9785
Arizona	Michael D. Fisher	8015
	Alexander Fowler	549
	Harold Johnson	9400
Arkansas	Grady Brown	9095
	Ernest D. Kyzer	4548
California	John L. Beesaw	6356
	Art Harris	5179
	Jerry A. Williams	7636
Colorado	J. Wesley Berry	807
	Darrell Elliott	1771
Connecticut	Thomas C. Walker, Past C-in-C	
	George Becker	6726
	Louis Reale	7790
Delaware	Frank A. Ciconte	3257
	Elmer D. Saxton, Sr	475
District of Columbia	John P. Lester	833
Florida	Otis Dwight	8093
	James Graham	2444
	William R. Kirsop	4256
	Merlin J. Lazarus	4945
	Eugene Manfrey	6827
	John R. Martin	10178
	C. N. Merinkers	706
	Dwight F. Shoemaker	8205
Georgia	Nelson Ballew	5080
	Ed B. Hitt	4382
Germany	William R. Pierce	9845
Hawaii	Henry S. Kuniyuki	4951
Illinois	Elmer Briskey	2004
	Patrick Harrell	2825
	Walter Luksta	9115
	Frank H. Rice	4547
Indiana	Richard L. Roudebush, Past C-in-C	
	Carl Ellinger	972
	John S. Etsinger	985
	James M. Leavitt	5782
	John Walker, Jr	1120
Iowa	Muriel E. Allan	3633
	Walter Fankhauser	2537
Kansas	Robert J. Sanders	1751
Kentucky	W. J. Cannon	5712
	Howard H. Howells	6935
	Richard L. Mayhew	10281

Department	Name	Post No.
Louisiana	Printice A. Darnell	4588
	Nolan L. Ledet	5733
	Joseph E. Nicotre	1736
Maine	John A. Roode	3198
Maryland	Bruno W. Betro	751
	James M. McGuire	6775
	Douglas Powell	9863
Massachusetts	John J. Bell	2578
	John Jarvis	639
	Bryan P. O'Brien	2394
	Paul N. Scoppa	834
Michigan	Assad Allie, C of A	
	William Bennett	7573
	Richard Pat Foley	3676
	Joseph Kruczek	565
	Raymond G. O'Neill	147
Minnesota	James Connolly	6690
	Ron Danielson	2816
	Merlin O. Hanson	1639
	Joseph E. Jeanette	137
	Charles Loftus	159
	Tony Thomas	246
Mississippi	Tom Lowe	2567
	Allie Moreau	3937
	M. F. Purvis	79
	Nockie C. Sims	3373
Missouri	Dennis Flynn	3060
	Charles Robert	3838
	James D. White	4257
Montana	Harold L. Lind, C of A	
	Johnny Buck	7887
Nebraska	Clarence Koch	6219
	Earl Stiner, Jr.	3421
	Bob D. Wagner	4502
	Dwaine Wilson	1652
Nevada	Henry Records	6826
New Hampshire	Guy Granger, Jr.	8641
New Jersey	Charles A. Duffett, Jr.	62
	Robert T. Dunn	139
	Raymond Effinger	1616
	Leon G. Scull	3525
New Mexico	Rudolph F. Otero	5610
	Leroy Vigil	15032
New York	Samuel C. Pilato, C of A	
	Melvin Garrett	6396
North Carolina	Ulysses Lawson	6018
	Ronald Long	8496
	Robert Miskelly	1142
	Robert C. Sanford	2008
	James O. Ward	3074
North Dakota	Paul Aaberg	6139
	Charles Barstad	762
Ohio	Dr. John Wasylik, Past-C-in-C	
	Ray Bayless	9520
	Lawrence Brewer	7340
	Dean Hinkle	8832
	Hudson Isaac	9473
	Ronald W. Kasper	9857
	Terry Roan	3124
Oklahoma	Sidney T. Longan	10667
Oregon	Robert Benson	1383
	Doyle Souders	2807
Pacific Areas	Robert Near	8180
	Michael L. Sullivan	8180
Pennsylvania	Joseph L. Vicites, Past C-in-C	

Department	Name	Post No.
	Dr. John B. Coates, Jr.	7418
	Oliver Hormel	167
	Robert May	1600
	Burnell W. Moul	2506
	Lawrence W. Wilver, Jr.	1665
Rhode Island	Arthur Boyanowski	1271
	Rena L. LaBarre	183
South Carolina	William H. Crowell	641
	M. Frank Edwards	9539
	Marion H. Evans	5996
	William J. Jolen	5996
South Dakota	Kenneth L. Nelson	1273
	Val G. Stockinger	628
	George Symes	628
Tennessee	David C. Doten, Jr.	1965
	W. R. Harris	1970
	Sam L. Leach	4641
Texas	Aubrey F. Cain	5617
	Robert J. Lyons	8246
	Charles S. Pearson	1533
	Emmett Stelzer	6797
	Lenwood Tant	8541
	Joseph Van Bakel	1475
	F. E. Gene Warden	8552
Utah	Max Martinez	4355
	Benito Russo	3586
Vermont	Michael Ryan	648
	Rae O. Washburn	792
Virginia	John Fanshaw	7819
	Ernest Glynn	7327
	George E. McCracken	609
	Charles B. Wilkerson	9809
Washington	Howard Copeland	1474
	Jack C. Hulslander	3063
	Ray Smith	379
West Virginia	Russell E. Hanlin	6735
	Dr. Mack C. Jarrell	1064
	Morris Lemaster	1064
	Danny Woods	8412
Wisconsin	George Goforth	2895
	M. Dean Kruger	305
	Kenneth Olson	1621
Wyoming	William E. Walzer	2221

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Chairman: Richard Trombla, Post 1174, Kansas

Department	Name	Post No.
California	Edwin L. Myers	9814
Delaware	Elwood B. Rickards	7234
Illinois	James L. Mascola	3580
Minnesota	James H. Kennedy	3877
Missouri	James H. Willis	534
New Jersey	Charles Sauer	4290
New York	Raymond Nowak	2940
New York	Thomas J. Poole	1975
Ohio	Sam Fruttoso [1]	1069
Pennsylvania	Richard L. Kilhefner	3376
Texas	Juston M. Morrow [1]	2012
Virginia	Jake Tate, Jr.	8977

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[1] Deceased.

COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES

Chairman: Larry Rivers, Post 1736, Louisiana

Vice Chairman: Ray Gallagher, Past Commander-in-Chief, South Dakota

(Room E-302, Dallas Convention Center)

AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL

CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BY-LAWS, RULES AND PROCEDURE AND RITUAL

B-1 (Proposed by Department of California)—Section 302—Composition of County Council

Disapproved.

B-2 (Proposed by Department of California)—Section 403—Composition

Disapproved.

B-3 (Proposed by Department of California)—Section 504—Composition

Disapproved.

B-4 (Proposed by Department of Arizona)—Section 1301—Amendments

Amend Section 1301, National By-Laws, by inserting the words "a District" after the words "a County Council" in the first sentence thereof. (Approved.)

B-5 (Proposed by Department of Arizona)—Section 222—Delegates, County Council, District, Department and National Conventions

Disapproved.

B-6 (Proposed by Department of Tennessee)—Section 1102—eligibility

Disapproved.

B-7 (Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 109—Right of Appeal

Amend Section 109, National By-Laws, by adding the following to subparagraph (a) thereof:

"Notwithstanding anything herein the right of appeal of any member removed from the membership rolls by order of the Commander-in-Chief for ineligibility is forfeited." (Adopted.) B-8 (Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 110—Rights of Members

Amend Section 110, National By-Laws, by adding the following thereto:

"Any member removed from the membership rolls by order of the Commander-in-Chief for ineligibility shall forfeit all rights and privileges as a member and shall be relieved of any elected or appointed office in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In such event no refund of annual dues will be made." (Approved.) B-9 (Proposed by Commander-in-Chief)—Section 211—Suspension and Revocation of Charter

Amend Section 211, National By-Laws, by adding the following to subparagraph (a) thereof:

"Resolutions adopted by the National Convention shall be lawful orders of the National Convention and such duly adopted resolutions shall be laws and usages of the organization. Any public communication and/or promulgation by Posts of Resolutions contrary to Resolutions adopted by the National Convention shall be in violation of the laws and usages of the organization and the lawful orders of the National Convention and shall be cause for the immediate suspension of the charter of any Post found to be in such violation and if action to comply with the By-Laws is not taken before the end of the suspension period, the charter of Such Post shall be cancelled by the Commander-in-Chief and such cancellation shall be without recourse and irrevocable. (Approved.)

B-10 (Proposed by Departments of Minnesota, Ohio and North Carolina)—Section 718—Political Action Committee

Disapproved.

B-11 (Proposed by Department of Texas)—Section 217—Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office

Disapproved.

M-1 (Proposed by Departments of Connecticut and Minnesota)—Section 101—Eligibility

Disapproved.

M-2 (Proposed by Department of Kansas)—Section 218—Officers, Powers and Duties

Amend Section 218, Manual of Procedure, by inserting the word "District" following the word "Department" in the third sentence of the first paragraph of the subsection titled "Duty of Quartermaster." (Adopted)

M-3 (Proposed by Department of Minnesota)—Section 101—Eligibility

Disapproved.

M-4 (Proposed by Department of Minnesota—Section 516—Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office

Amend Section 516, Manual of Procedure, by deleting the next to the last sentence of the first paragraph and substituting in lieu thereof the following sentence: "Should there be no election on the first roll call, the name of the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive roll calls until an election is made. (Adopted.)

R-1 (Proposed by Department of Maine)—Revision to Ritual-Chapel Service

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Chapel Service portion of the VFW Ritual (pp 106–107) be amended by replacing the pertinent sections of the officers ceremonies with the following:

Junior Vice Commander:

"On behalf of..............Post...........Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I present this evergreen tribute as a symbol of our undying love for our comrade."

Senior Vice Commander:

"I place these white flowers as a symbol of purity upon this casket, and may each future generation emulate the unselfish devotion to duty even to the last of our comrades."

Officer of the Day:

"We place this wreath as a last token of affection from his comrades-in-arms upon the casket of our departed comrade and crown his mortal dust with this symbol of victory." (Approved.)

R-2 (Proposed by Department of Michigan)—Add Prayer Commemorating the Sinking of the U.S.S. Maine

Disapproved.

R-3 (Proposed by Department of California)—Amend "Installation of Post Officers"

Disapproved.

No. PAC-1 (Proposed by Department of New Hampshire)—The VFW and the VFW-PAC

Disapproved.

RESOLUTIONS

CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

No. 101 (Many Departments)—Restore Memorial Day to May 30th

Disapproved.

No. 102 (Department of Connecticut)—Concerning Memorial Day

Disapproved.

No. 103 (Department of Nebraska)—Unrestricted Age Limit on the Sons of the VFW

Disapproved.

No. 104 (Department of Idaho)—Constitution Day

Disapproved.

No. 105 (Department of California)—Loyalty Day

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that our patriotic and fraternal organization will continue to exercise initiative and lead by example in matters and programs relating to patriotism and loyalty to the United States of America. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 106 (Department of Washington)—International People-to-People Observance

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we commend the Department of Washington for its annual Peace Arch Ceremony in Blaine, Washington, and that we encourage adoption of similar programs by other Departments with international boundaries as both desirable and creditable Americanism and Youth Activities Program. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 107 (Department of Oregon)—Restore Memorial Day to May 30th

Disapproved.

No. 108 (Commander-in-Chief)—Support and Promote Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we highly commend and endorse the annual Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program and that we urge our members through the sponsorship of their respective units to support and promote increased participation opportunities and student involvement in an unparalleled Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program during 1985–86, thereby, contributing invaluably to the understanding of freedom and democracy by today's youth in keeping with the patriotic, historical and educational objectives of our organization. (Adopted.)

No. 109 (Commander-in-Chief)—Cooperation with National and State Organizations to Promote Youth, Safety and Patriotic Programs

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we recognize this relationship and extend sincere appreciation to each of these organizations for their cooperation in the development and promotion of youth, safety and patriotic programs; and

Be it further resolved, that during the year ahead, we urge our Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments to maintain and to strengthen their ties with the AAU Junior Olympics, American Academy of Achievement, Young American Bowling Alliance, American Youth Soccer Organization, Boy Scouts of America, Boys' Clubs of America, Civil Air Patrol, 4-H Clubs, Freedoms Foundation, National Rifle Association of America, National Education Association, National and State Associations of Secondary School Principals, National and State Associations of Broadcasters, all ROTC Programs and Recruiting Commands, Special Olympics, and all other groups, associations and organizations of similar character and interests. (Adopted.)

No. 110 (Department of Nevada)—Amend the Federal Flag Code

Disapproved.

No. 111 (Department of Massachusetts)—Restoration of Memorial Day to May 30th

Disapproved.

No. 112 (Department of Illinois)—Prohibit the Public Burning of the U.S. Flag

Disapproved.

No. 113 (Department of South Dakota)—Memorial Day

Disapproved.

No. 114 (Department of Colorado)—Voice of Democracy Tapes

Disapproved.

No. 115 (Department of Delaware)—Restore Memorial Day to May 30th

Disapproved.

No. 116 (Commander-in-Chief)—Restore Memorial Day to May 30th

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to return the commemoration of Memorial Day to its rightful and historic day, May 30 of each year; and

Be it further resolved, that as the National Organization of VFW attempts to accomplish this mandate, that we urge all state VFW organizations to concurrently work to achieve changing state observances of Memorial Day to May 30 of each year. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 117 (Commander-in-Chief)—Amend the Federal Flag Code

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the U.S. Congress to amend the Federal Flag Code so as to limit the flying of flags on the same halyard with that of the flag of the United States to flags of states, cities and other municipal bodies and the MIA/POW flag, and specifically prohibit the flying of any other flag on the same halyard with that of the United States flag. (Adopted as Amended.)

CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

No. 201 (Department of Wyoming)—Change the Official Uniform of the VFW to Include Styles Suitable for Wear by Female Members

No. 202 (Department of Wyoming)—Include Female VFW Members on Emblem and Supply Department Advisory Board

Disapproved.

No. 203 (Many Departments)—District Commanders Membership Trip

Disapproved.

No. 204 (Department of Alaska)—Provide Club Insurance to All Posts

Disapproved.

No. 205 (Many Departments)—To Establish in All State Post Quartermaster Program

Disapproved.

No. 206 (Department of Alabama)—Limit the Length of the VFW National Convention

Disapproved.

No. 207 (Department of Arkansas)—Publish Pictures of Missing Children in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Magazine

Disapproved.

No. 208 (Departments of California and Michigan)—VFW National Home Guest Lodge

Disapproved.

No. 209 (Department of California)—Fire, Casualty and Liability Insurance for VFW Posts

Disapproved.

No. 210 (Department of California)—Buddy Poppy Promotion

Disapproved.

No. 211 (Department of Oregon)—Change Imprint on VFW Standard Letterhead

Disapproved.

No. 212 (Department of Nevada)—Recommendation to Have the National Service Office Take Over the Administration, Cost and Running of the Department of Nevada Service Officer Program

Referred to National Veterans Service Committee.

No. 213 (Department of Connecticut)—World War I Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 214 (Department of Ohio)—Eliminate Dual Membership

Disapproved.

No. 215 (Department of Pennsylvania)—National Cancer Fund for Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 216 (Department of Pennsylvania)—VFW National Award Winners to VFW National Convention

Disapproved.

No. 217 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Oppose National Take Over of Programs

Disapproved.

No. 218 (Department of Wisconsin)—Provide Photo of VFW National Home

Disapproved.

No. 219 (Department of Wisconsin)—List Chaplain and Judge Advocate on Officers Report Form

Disapproved.

No. 220 (Department of New York)—Form a Committee to Study and Review VFW National By-Laws and Ritual

By it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Commander-in-Chief be petitioned to form a committee to study and review our Ritual and By-Laws and bring appropriate recommendations to the National Convention of 1986 to correct these oversights and bring our Ritual and By-Laws up to date. (Adopted.)

No. 221 (Department of Wisconsin)—Return "Seeking Former Comrades/Shipmates" in Magazine

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW Magazine be requested to find a way to reinstate the popular and useful "Seeking Former Comrades" service to the "Notices" column. (Adopted.)

No. 222 (Department of Wisconsin)—Barneveld Disaster

Disapproved.

No. 223 (Department of Ohio)—Require VFW Meeting Places to Be Accessible to Disabled Members

Disapproved.

No. 224 (Department of Minnesota)—Restrict Printing of Political Endorsements in Publications

Disapproved.

No. 225 (Department of Minnesota)—Provide Membership Broadcast Media Campaign

Disapproved.

No. 226 (Department of Minnesota)—Provide VFW Medicare Supplement Insurance

Disapproved.

No. 227 (Department of Minnesota)—Provide Group Liquor Liability Insurance for VFW Posts

Disapproved.

No. 228 (Department of Minnesota)—Make Available a VFW Patch to Designate Volunteer Service

Disapproved.

No. 229 (Department of Illinois)—To Establish Drug Abuse and Alcohol Control Program As a Separate Program

Disapproved.

No. 230 (Department of Tennessee)—Oppose VFW National Home Soliciting Donations Through a Processing Center

Disapproved.

No. 231 (Department of Utah)—Recommendation to Have National Service Officer Take Over the Administration, Cost and Running of the Department of Utah Service Officer Program

Referred to National Veterans Service Committee

No. 232 (Department of Missouri)—Change System of Setting Yearly Quotas of Buddy Poppies

Disapproved.

No. 233 (Department of New Jersey)—District Commanders Membership Trip

Disapproved.

No. 234 (Department of Kentucky)—District Commanders Membership Trip

Disapproved.

No. 235 (Department of California)—District Commanders & Post Commanders Membership Trip

Disapproved.

No. 236 (Department of Kentucky)—To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program

Disapproved.

No. 237 (Department of California)—To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program

Disapproved.

No. 238 (Department of Kansas)—To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program

Disapproved.

No. 239 (Departments of Colorado and New Jersey)—To Establish An All State Post Quartermaster Program

Disapproved.

No. 240 (Department of Louisiana)—All American Post Quartermasters

Referred to National Council of Administration.

No. 241 (Department of Maryland)—Restoration of Fort McHenry

Disapproved.

No. 242 (Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief)—Urge the VFW to Implement a Chemical Dependency Public Awareness Program

Be it Resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we develop a public awareness chemical dependency program only after conferring with officials from the U.S. Attorney General's office and other government or quasi-government agencies that are charged with the responsibility of the development of programs designed to educate against, and to prevent or contain the continuing abuse of chemical substances and/or alcohol; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge the membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary through our Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments to support educational programs of public awareness that shall be developed and to assign this program a high priority among other community activities associated with our organization. (Adopted.)

No. 243 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Freedom of Information and Privacy Resolution

Disapproved.

CONSIDERED COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

No. 301 (Department of California)—Urging Reintroduction of Legislation to Remedy Inequity in the Social Security System

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we hereby support the reintroduction of legislation currently pending in Congress, or introduction of new bills which would insure that persons born in 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 receive benefits equal to those persons born before or after 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 and which would remove the penalty to which persons born in 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 are currently subjected. (Adopted.)

No. 302 (Department of California)—U.S. Postmaster General Designation of POW/MIA Postage Stamp

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we are in full support of this resolution. (Adopted.)

No. 303 (Department of Germany)—Vote of Confidence for the Commander-in-Chief In His Stand for the Support of President Reagan's Bitburg & Belsen-Bergan Germany Visits in May 1985

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we hereby express our wholehearted support in behalf of our

Commander-in-Chief for his stand in support of the Actions of the President as set forth in this resolution. (Adopted.)

No. 304 (Department of Wisconsin)—Bar David Stockman from U.S. Service

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that with the departure of David Stockman from the Office of Management and Budget, veterans' rights are enhanced and it is the hope of the VFW that he never again be permitted to occupy a position with the Government of this nation that will effect veterans' entitlements. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 305 (Department of Minnesota)—Provide a National Memorial to Korean Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that an appropriate memorial be created in Washington, D.C., to recognize the service of the men and women who served during the Korean Conflict; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States support pending legislation to provide such a memorial. (Adopted.)

No. 306 (Department of Illinois)—Amendment to Social Security Act

Disapproved.

No. 307 (Department of Illinois)—Support House Resolution 1626 Asbestos Workers Recovery Act

Disapproved.

No. 308 (Department of Wisconsin)—Tighten Laws Against Illegal Drugs

Be it resolved, that judges prosecutors and jorors not adhering to these laws shall be found derelict in their duties. (Adopted.)

No. 309 (Department of New Hampshire)—Urge Congress to Publicly List Their Spending Priorities

Disapproved.

No. 310 (Department of Minnesota)—Oppose the Establishment of Indian Bingo Parlors Outside Reservations

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the transfer to or occupancy of any real estate by foreign nations, sovereign nations or Indian Tribes in the United States, be subject to ratification by the United States Senate of each transaction and that before such ratification, the United States Senate must request the opinion of the State Legislature prior to any such ratification. (Adopted.)

No. 311 (Commander-in-Chief)—Refrain from Patronizing Performances or Purchasing Publications of Jane Fonda

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that all VFW members pledge to refrain from patronizing any performance by said Jane Fonda or from attending any motion picture in which she appears or from purchasing any publication that provides as profit to this traitor, and to urge all their friends, family and neighbors to do likewise. Let Jane Fonda sell her exercise book to the Soviets. (Adopted.)

No. 312 (Department of New York)—Social Security Notch Law

Disapproved.

No. 313 (Department of New York)—Korean War Memorial

Disapproved.

No. 314 (Department of Maryland)—Oppose Law Suit filed by Muhammed Ali

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose this law suit filed by Muhammed Ali. (Adopted.)

No. 315 (Commander-in-Chief)—Oppose Monument Commemorating Anti-War Efforts of Peace Activists During the Vietnam Era

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that those brave Americans who sacrificed so much for the cause of freedom and liberty of others be honored on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the end of the participation of the United States in the Vietnam War; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States memorialize Congress to oppose any effort by anti-Vietnam protestors to erect any monument in Washington or elsewhere, which would be dedicated to the memory of anti-Vietnam protestors of the Vietnam era. (Adopted.)

No. 316 (Department of Missouri)—The Abestos Workers' Recovery Act

Disapproved.

No. 317 (Department of Nebraska)—Support House Bill 2109

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States to support House Bill 2109 which will require the payment of approved claims from the funds of the government of South Vietnam now impounded in banks in the United States. (Adopted.)

No. 318 (Department of California)—Support of the Farm over Moratorium

Disapproved.

No. 319 (Department of Illinois)—Our Missing Kids

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request, through our National Organization, State, District and Post levels, that the programming of flagging missing childrens birth certificates be adopted by schools, county clerks and law enforcement agencies of missing children 16 years of age and younger.

Be it further resolved, that where state legislation is required to accomplish this, that we call on all states to adopt legislation to implement this program. (Adopted.)

No. 320 (Commander-in-Chief)—An Expression of Thanks to Dallas for the City's Hospitality

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we express our gratitude to the City of Dallas, the County of Dallas and the State of Texas for their hospitality, friendliness and generosity in making this 86th National Convention one of the most successful in the history of this organization. (Adopted.)

No. 321 (Commander-in-Chief)—Expression of Thanks to Past Commander-in-Chief Ted C. Connell

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we tender our thanks to Past Commander-in-Chief Ted C. Connell for the splendid manner in which the 86th National Convention plans were made and the exemplary manner in which, under his direction, they were carried out. (Adopted.)

CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 401 (Many Departments)—The VFW's Enduring Commitment to American Defense Primacy

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that:

(a) Congress "raises and supports" an increase in the active and reserve structure and Army National Guard to 18 divisions to more fully meet the many commitments worldwide it faces;

(b) the Congress "provides and maintains" a combat-ready Marine Corps with sufficient funds to maintain a strength of at least four divisions and four airwings (one division and one wing as reserves);

(c) the Congress "provides and maintains" the U.S. Navy, in the face of unprecedented Soviet maritime buildup, to again become the world's most modern, powerful and versatile naval power, specifically to include a comprehensive TRIDENT submarine, carrier, battleship and other surface ship building power;

(d) the National Guard and Reserves of all the services be fully funded, manned and supported in line with their sharply enhanced importance under the "total force program;"

(e) we affirm our support for a U.S.-built, enlarged and modern Merchant Marine as a vital element of our nation's maritime policy to include needed subsidies;

(f) we support strong, meaningful and separate military departments (Army, Navy, and Air Force) under their service secretaries;

(g) we advocate continued development of nuclear weapons to include integrated strategic targeting, operational missile flights from ICBM silos, cruise missile test flights, and, where necessary, testing of such weapons to sustain and preserve our role as the strategic guardian of the Free World;

(h) we support a policy of central control and coordination of research and development by the Secretary of Defense which eliminates unnecessary duplication, but assures the benefits of constructive competition and experimentation of weapons appropriate to the missions of the military services. We continue to support the Congressionally-established basic role and mission of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines;

(i) we support adequate U.S. forces under NATO to include the prompt deployment of modern theater nuclear forces;

(j) we support every feasible public and private measure to restore and enhance the discipline, morale, *esprit de corps*, and professionalism of the Armed Forces;

(k) we oppose any further unilaterral reductions—a U.S. acceptance of a "Nuclear freeze" at today's force levels—or other unilateral constraints upon our strategic offensive or defensive forces;

(l) we support a vigorous and professional ROTC and Junior ROTC program;

(m) we note the erratic record of "All Volunteer Forces" during a period of no hostilities and economic uncertainty, and further note that this concept has yet to meet the test of time and hostile fire;

(n) we continue to support the Joint Chiefs of Staff system to assure the flow of undiluted professional military advice to principal elected policysetters in the Executive Branch and the Congress, and while so doing, be alert to oppose any "reorganization" of the Department of Defense which would have the practical effect of downgrading or silencing the Joint Chiefs of Staff;

(o) as a matter of strategic urgency, press forward now with flight testing and full deployment of the cruise missile—land, sea, and air—as a badly overdue enhancement of the TRIAD (bombers, ICMBs and SLBMs);

(p) we urge the Congress not be permitted to play the passive, essentially irresponsible role it cast for itself under the War Powers Bill, and that Section 4 of the War Powers Bill be revised to require a prompt expression of Congressional support for, or opposition to, a Presidential initiative abroad involving United States armed forces in a hostile environment;

(q) We call for, in the absence of any significant and verifiable reduction of Soviet-supplied and led tank power in Central Europe, the immediate funding and deployment of the Enhanced Radiation/Reduced Blast Neutron Warhead in Central Europe as an offset to Warsaw Pact superiority in tanks;

(r) we urge multi-year funding for both men and material for both the active duty and reserve forces; and finally,

(s) we assert as being in the supreme policy of the United States, that should, in the future, the United States find it necessary to defend this Nation or our country's security interests by recourse to arms, that we fight with but one objective. To Win: Never Again a "No Win" War. (Adopted)

No. 402 (Many Departments)—Nuclear "Freeze" No! Peace Through Strength Yes!

Disapproved.

No. 403 (Many Departments)—National Strategy of Peace Through Strength

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the United States continue vigorously to support a National Strategy of Peace Through Strength, the general principles of which would be:

(1) to maintain a strong economy and protect our overseas sources of energy and other vital raw materials;

(2) to help our allies and other non-communist countries defend themselves against communist aggression;

(3) to pursue positive non-military means to roll back the growth of communism;

(4) to reestablish effective security and intelligence capabilities;

(5) to accept no arms control agreement which in any way jeopardizes the security of the United States or its allies, or locks the U.S. into a position of military inferiority;

(6) to create a strategic defense and a civil defense which would protect U.S. citizens against nuclear war at least as well as the Soviets defend their citizens;

(7) to achieve overall military and technological superiority over the Soviet Union; and

(8) to inspire, focus and unite the national will and determination to achieve this goal of peace and freedom; and

Be it further resolved, that we sustain our membership in the Coalition for Peace Through Strength, to work with other organizations for the adoption of a National

Strategy of Peace Through Strength; however, reserving to the VFW and the right to make our own decisions as to how these principles shall be applied on individual issues. (Adopted.)

No. 404 (Many Departments)— America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action: A Non-Negotiable Matter of Honor

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that if Hanoi keeps its promise of accelerated recovery, then the VFW will consider the issue of normalized relations between the United States Government and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and

Be it further resolved, that the VFW supports the President's pledge of highest national priority and his latest effort to resolve the status of 2,463 Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina; and that the President may want to consider a POW/MIA commission if such uncertainities can be overcome and if it will help maintain his high national priority and aids in the speedy and complete resolution that this issue deserves

Be it further resolved, that maximum U.S. economic and diplomatic pressure be sustained, for as long as it takes, to the end that those nations and movements which are hindering the search for the MIAs desist from this cruel practice and assist in the search effort as called for not only in the Paris Accords of 1973, but also by our common humanity; and

Be it further resolved, that the VFW continues to support and join the administration and the Congress to speak out forcefully and publicity on this issue of our prisoners of War and Missing in Action; that no most favored nation status be granted the Soviet Union; that no further trade agreements be negotiated with that nation; that no material or monetary aid even be considered for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam or any like-minded countries until such time as an accurate accounting and/or return of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action has been made; and

Be it further resolved, that attempts of barter for MIA information be denounced as the lowest and most despicable form of international blackmail; and

Be it further resolved, that the Subcommittee on POW/MIAs of the National Security Committee, mandated by the 81st National Convention, remain in force until this issue has been fully and fairly resolved; and

Be it further resolved, that the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia must continue to be included in all inter-agency discussions from which policy intended to resolve this issue will evolve; and

Be it further resolved, that with the impending high level meeting the POW/MIA issue is entering a critical stage. The VFW recognizes and urges a National unity which fully reflects our trust, confidence and support for the President's latest effort. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 405 (Many Departments)—VFW Designate the "Red Ribbon" for Concern for POW/MIAs

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we adopt the Red Ribbon and encourage its wearing and display as a symbol to publicize the plight of POW/MIAs; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States promote the wearing of the Red Ribbons until the POW/MIAs are returned and/or accounted for. (Adopted.)

No. 406 (Many Departments)—Continue the POW/MIA Subcommittee of the National Security Committee

Disapproved.

No. 407 (Many Departments)—The U.S. Military: A Calling Not a Job

Disapproved.

No. 408 (Many Departments)—Strategic Defense

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and the Congress to support accelerated research and development of advanced technologies which offer the possibility of protecting our country and its allies from missile attack; and

Be it further resolved, that a sustained research should focus on determining the requirements for the most reliable anti-ballistic missile system and that a comparable study effort should examine our Civil Defense and air defense needs and the strategic implicatioms of a possible new national defense posture; and

Be it further resolved, that the President and the Congress continue to support the strategic force modernization program to assure peace through strength and to provide the protection and incentive for U.S. industry to tap their enormous research and development potential to assure our continued survival as a nation free from coercion and intimidation. (Adopted.)

No. 409 (Many Departments)—Halt the Erosion of Alliance Strength

Be it further resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we will support efforts to isolate those countries whose example or actions are harmful to the current and future cohesiveness and capability of alliances; and

Be it further resolved, that the U.S. Government work with other alliance members to overcome any regional military weakness or vulnerability caused by this erosion of alliance strength; and

Be it further resolved, that such indifference by allies towards military ties with the United States be treated with equal indifference by the United States to include cutting off U.S. military assistance and aid to those countries. (Adopted.)

No. 410 (Many Departments)—Priority Attention to Philippine Crisis

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW urges the President and the Congress to take note of the growing crisis in the Philippines and to develop, as a matter of priority, a policy which will ensure the Philippines remain a free, stable and supportive ally. (Adopted.)

No. 411 (Many Departments)—Continue to Halt Shocking Waste in Pentagon Spare Parts Procurement

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Secretary of Defense to move immediately to remedy this waste by ending the noncompetitive negotiated contracts and by ordering competitive bidding on all contracts and that cost overruns be paid by contractors unless such costs result from government ordered design changes; and

Be it further resolved, that the Congress move immediately to adopt multi-year budget appropriations so the Armed Services can take advantage of savings in bulk purchases; and

Be it further resolved, that the Defense and Justice Departments vigorously prosecute those defense contractors and former defense and military officials where there is credible evidence of fraud by means of huge cost overruns, inflated prices and outlandish administrative charges; and

Be it further resolved, that the VFW must point out that failure to take decisive action to halt the waste and corruption in Defense contracting will inevitably erode VFW support for the common defense; and

Be it further resolved, that those offenders caught overcharging and profiting on the backs of the American taxpayer, while not having committed treason in the legal sense, we consider their activities to be the equivalent of treason and retribution against those offenders should be quick and decisive. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 412 (Many Departments)—Modernization of Chemical Weapons Overdue

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Administration and the Congress to put aside their "it can't happen now" attitude, remembering the words of General John J. Pershing who declared: "Whether or not gas will be employed in future wars is a matter of conjecture, but the effect is so deadly to the unprepared that we can never afford to neglect the question," and look at the problems and consequences of chemical warfare rationally; and

Be it further resolved, by the VFW that a comprehensive program be developed and initiated as a matter of urgency to upgrade the chemical defenses posture of U.S. forces and to begin production of a retaliatory chemical stockpile of binary weapons (the safest type of chemical munitions); and

Be it further resolved, that older munitions which can no longer be used and may become unsafe in storage be demilitarized and destroyed. (Adopted.)

No. 413 (Many Departments)—Halt the Hemorrhage of Technology

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Defense, Commerce and State Departments jointly develop a coordinated program to stop the flow of technology to all communist countries; and

Be it further resolved, that as a minimum, the program must include:

(a) the reclassification of important technological secrets so as to prevent open disclosure of information vital to our national security;

(b) more stringent export licensing controls and mandatory tracing of all sensitive technological equipment to insure it reaches the propert destination; and

Be it further resolved, that the Commerce Department is urged to strengthen enforcement of their regulations by requiring the presentation of Shippers Export Declarations to Customs prior to loading the cargo for export from the United States of America; and

Be it further resolved, that we petition Congress to fund and adequately staff the U.S. Customs Service, which has the task of enforcing the Export Administration Regulations to enable the U.S. Customs Service to inspect and examine commodities and technical data intended for export from the United States of America. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 414 (Many Departments)—Arms Control Violations

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the President to instruct our arms negotiators to insist that the Soviets dismantle their ABM radar and other weapons that violate existing agreements or the U.S. will take compensation measures to overcome the Soviet military advantage; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge the establishment of a Joint Presidential-Congressional Commission to periodically review Soviet compliance and our verification procedures and to publicly report its findings biannually to the American public; and

Be it further resolved, that the U.S. Government inform the Soviets that as a matter of policy, future arms control agreements cannot be executed without full compliance with existing agreements. (Adopted.)

No. 415 (Many Departments)—Prevent U.S. Adherence ot the United Nations Genocide Treaty

Disapproved. No. 416 (Many Departments)—Strengthen the Conventional Defense of Western Europe

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW uses our maximum influence to increase the conventional capability of the NATO nations to enhance both the deterrent and the military capability of our forces in being. (Adopted.)

No. 417 (Many Departments)—Employer Discrimination (Referred to Committee on National Veterans Service.)

No. 418 (Many Departments)—Changing the Constitution

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any attempt to call for a Constitutional Convention as this would give our enemies from within and without the opportunity to destroy our Nation. (Adopted.)

No. 419 (Many Departments)—United States Support for the Republic of Korea

Disapproved.

No. 420 (Many Departments)—Support for the Republic of China on Taiwan

Be it further resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition and urge the United States Government to re-establish relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan on a government-to-government basis; and

Be it further resolved, that the United States Government insist on and obtain from the government of the People's Republic of China an assurance that they will not use force in an attempt to place the free people of the Republic of China on Taiwan under its control and an assurance of continued freedom and sovereignty; and

Be it further resolved, that all other agreements between the government of the United States and the government of the Republic of China on Taiwan continue in effect and have the force of law; and

Be it further resolved, that the United States Government prohibit exportation to the People's Republic of China of military equipment and technology that would give a military advantage to the People's Republic of China over the Republic of China on Taiwan; and

Be it further resolved, that the Republic of China on Taiwan be allowed to continue to purchase modern weapons and equipment and technology from the United States in quality and quantity necessary to maintain a strong military force capable of defending itself from any aggression and assuring the freedom of its citizens and assisting in the defense of the Pacific area. (Adopted.)

No. 421 *(Many Departments)—Absentee Ballot Reform*

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we encourage each VFW Department, the National Legislative Service of the VFW, and the various legislative chairmen to all work with the several state legislatures, and the proper Federal authorities to enact legislation, wherever a state does not have such legislation, to allow the election officials concerned to begin mailing absentee ballots to APO, FPO and foreign addresses 60 days or more before the general election, or as soon thereafter as the list of candidates has been completed by the states. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 422 *(Many Departments)—Preserve the U.S. Coast Guard*

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW calls upon the President and the Congress to recognize the contributions of the United States Coast Guard and to restore the funding necessary to allow the Coast Guard to refurbish its fleet and continue to provide its full range of services to the United States of America; and

Be it further resolved, that the VFW urges the President and the Congress to ensure the Department of Transportation restores the active and reserve manpower needed to maintain the effectiveness of the United States Coast Guard. (Adopted.)

No. 423 *(Many Departments)—No Women in Combat Jobs*

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the position of the VFW on this question before the Congress and the Executive Branch will be: No women will be assigned to ground, sea or air jobs that call for aggressively seeking out, closing with, and destroying the enemy; and

Be it further resolved, that the postition of the VFW on this question be expanded before the Congress and the Executive Branch to remind the Congress of the United States to provide all branches of the Armed Forces with the necessary exemption regarding job placement equality to insure that: *No women will be trained for, or assigned to, ground, sea or air jobs that could call for aggressively seeking out, closing with, and destroying the enemy.* (Adopted.)

No. 424 *(Many Departments)—Military Retirement*

Disapproved.

No. 425 *(Many Departments)—Return to a Fair and Loophole-Free Military Draft as Soon as Practicable and Desirable*

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that:

(a) the autonomous Selective Service System be fully supported by the Office of Management and Budget as a key part of the total manpower mobilization effort;

(b) annual registration of 18-year old males be continued;

(c) annual conscription of up to 200,000 men for the reserve forces of all services be instituted now; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States continue as a Security Goal the creation of a just and equitable (loophole-free) draft to man the active duty Armed Forces with the quantity and quality of people needed to assure our common defense, letting the political chips fall where they may. (Adopted.)

No. 426 *(Many Departments)—Selective Service Registration*

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation which would require all male federal service applicants be registered with the Selective Service System and that they be required by law to supply their Selective Service number on SF 171, and that said form be modified for the inclusion thereof; and

Be it further resolved, that non-Selective Service registrants be automatically removed from consideration for any government job until registration is made with the Selective Service. (Adopted.)

No. 427 *(Many Departments)—Refugees and Illegal Aliens in the United States*

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that:

(a) the President and the Congress take immediate steps to increase the security and control of our borders by adding new patrol officers and other positions and by increasing the surveillance of our borders:

(b) a Congressionally-mandated national effort be undertaken to account for and then deport illegal aliens currently in this country by causing employers to verify the immigration status of their employees;

(c) Consideration be given to reviving the guest worker program for non-citizens desiring seasonal work in the United States;

(d) the United States adopt a comprehensive, firm and fair, total immigration policy recognizing that up to one-third of all persons living in Latin America, but for one example, desire to emigrate here; in sum, we get a "handle" on this problem of shocking proportion;

(e) that immediate action be taken to expel from our country alien persons, welcomed to this country upon temporary visas for any reason, when such persons are legally found to violate the laws of this country; and

(f) legislation be enacted which will come to grips with the problem of illegal aliens in our midst and stem the engulfing tide of more legals. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 428 (Many Departments)—The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW supports a substantial reorganization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff which will assure that the new organization that emerges be structured to undertake primary national responsibility for advising upon:

1. the organization, equipment, operational practices and tactics of the land, sea and air forces of or enemies, or allies and ourselves; and
2. how to estimate force requirements—land, sea and air, drawn from the separate services, and forged into a coherent fighting team; calculate airlift and sealift capabilities; estimate road and rail capacities; judge the effectiveness of weapons systems; eliminate costs; plan, program and budget military systems; interpret intelligence data; plan military operations; revise contingency plans quickly in the heat of a crisis; and execute joint operations; and

Be it resolved, that (a) the VFW urges the President and the Congress to take practical steps to assure that the military advice they receive, so central to our common defense, reflects only the undiluted professional judgements of the uniformed military and does not conform to transitory domestic political preferences; and (b) that the reorganization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff insures the flow of such undiluted military advice. (Adopted.)

No. 429 (Many Departments)—Keep Up the Pressure On Communist Cuba

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the President and the Congress to continue the present policy of no trade with Communist Cuba, and the policy of no diplomatic recognition of that communist state for as long as it remains the policy of that Cuban communist regime to retain the many harsh injustices now extant in that unfortunate land and have their armed forces serve under the strategic direction of the Soviet Union; and

Be it further resolved, that the United States government, under no circumstances, grant concessions affecting complete and undiluted U.S. control and use of Guantanamo Bay as a Naval Base of supreme strategic, as wellas political importance; and

Be it further resolved, that the President of the United States continues SR 71 intelligence gathering overflights of Cuba to insure more accurate intelligence gathering as to the manner in which the "Kennedy-Khruschev Agreement" of 1962 is being honored by the Cubans; and

Be it further resolved, that should the Soviet Union move dramatically against the United States of our vital interets worldwide, we promptly and effectively blockade the Soviet bastion of Cuba. (Adopted.)

No. 430 (Many Departments)—Aid the Afghan Freedom Fighters and Refugees

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that: (a) U.S. military aid to the Afghan freedom fighters—principally small arms and anti-tank and anti-helicopter weapons—be sharply increased; and (b) U.S. humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees in neighboring Pakistan and inside Afghanistan be promptly provided in amounts and categories needed. (Adopted.)

No. 431 (Many Departments)—Restore American Primacy in Central America, the Caribbean and South America

Disapproved.

No. 432 (Many Departments)—Non-Stop VFW Support for the CIA and FBI

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that: (a) the budgets of both the CIA and FBI not be made public knowledge; (b) both these professional intelligence services be fully supported by the Administration and the Congress; (c) The Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States publicly and forcefully support the CIA and FBI and communicate such support clearly to the President and the Congress; (d) neither the Freedom of Information Act nor the Privacy Act be invoked to expose or endanger sensitive intelligence matters; and (e) as for the possible CIA covert operations, only those with a true "need to know" in the Congress—the Intelligence Committees—be made privy to such sensitive undertakings. (Adopted.)

No. 433 (Many Departments)—The UN: The Free Ride Ends

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we applaud both the President and the Congress for showing the courage to stand up for democracy and that they consider reducing the U.S. fiscal support of the United Nations from its current level to a prorata share ($^1/_{154}$ of the UN budget) and that the U.S. membership in the UN General Assembly be contingent upon the above condition; and that those member nations who do not pay their assessed share be denied the right to vote as provided in the UN Charter; and that if investigation reveals financial corruption, that U.S. support for other UN agencies be terminated. (Adopted.)

No. 434 (Many Departments)—The VFW: Anti-Communist, Pro-American and Proud of It

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that as the core of our national security program, the VFW reasserts and reconfirms its longstanding position for freedom and against communism and presses home this informed and deeply moral view to the President and the United States Congress; and

Be it further resolved, that we call upon the President and the Congress—as a longterm measure not merely as a reaction to Poland, Iran and Afghanistan—to stop the export from our country to the Soviet Union of sophisticated machine tools, chemical processing equipment, electronics equipment, and agricultural products, or information, including plans and techniques for manufacturing same, all of which, if permitted to continue or resume, will work against the security interests of the United States of America in that the export of said items will strengthen the war-making abilities of the Soviet Union which could be used against us or our allies in the future; and

Be it further resolved, that any exports of non-strategic items to the USSR from the United States shall be for cash, except in cases of widespread famine, and must be carried on U.S. ships and not upon the credit of the United States or other off-setting arrangements. (Adopted.)

No. 435 (Many Departments)—Defeat Terrorism

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President to direct the reorganization and streamlining of the current anti-terrorist networks and which will lead to an overall improvement of the posture of the United States and its forces and facilities at home and abroad, to deter, defeat and counter terrorist operations; and

Be it further resolved, that in order to combat the development of worldwide terrorist networks, further steps be taken to:

(a) improve the capability of our intelligence agencies to collect, analyze and disseminate information about terrorist activities;

(b) strengthen the FBI and other governmental agencies involved in the detection and prevention of terrorism within the United States;

(c) strengthen the U.S. border clearance agencies at airports, harbors, and borders to prevent the introduction of "suitcase" nuclear weapons weapons into the United States;

(d) declare as a matter of policy that under no circumstances would we ever again knuckle under to international terrorism as was the case in Teheran; and

(e) reinstitute the House Committee on Internal Security in the U.S. House of Representatives to bolster and extend the Senate's Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism. (Adopted.)

No. 436 (Many Departments)—The Panama Canal

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States to examine the present operation of the Panama Canal and its Commission to ensure that the national interests of the United States, especially as to its ability to use the Canal for national security reasons, will not be placed in jeopardy by deteriorating physical condition or by mismanagement and inexperience; and

Be it further resolved, that as part of its study of the Panama Canal, the Congress should carefully consider the current state of the Canal's security and what measures are needed to ensure the Canal cannot be crippled by international terrorists. (Adopted.)

No. 437 (Many Departments)—Revitalize U.S. Civil Defense

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that as a matter of overriding priority, the Congress appoint a distinguished panel of citizens charged with reporting to the nation within 90 days on:

(a) the current status and projected effectiveness of U.S. Civil Defense measures; and

(b) in light of the panel's findings, recommend both short term and long term measures needed to integrate ballistic missile defense with Civil Defense measures to defend exposed America; i.e., "provide for the common defense; and

Be it further resolved that the Congress restore the necessary funds in the FY 1986 budget to revitalize our Civil Defense, while charging FEMA with developing plans to move "our front" and become a truly national component of our "common defense" willing and able to provide the national leadership necessary to protect exposed America. (Adopted.)

No. 438 (Department of District of Columbia)—Military Retirement

Disapproved.

No. 439 (Department of District of Columbia)—Strategic Defense

Disapproved.

No. 440 (Department of District of Columbia)—Restore American Primacy in Central America, the Caribbean and South America

Disapproved.

No. 441 (Department of District of Columbia)—Support of House Congress Resolution 129

Disapproved.

No. 442 (Department of Nebraska)—The Monroe Doctrine Be Re-Declared to Be the Basic Policy of the U.S.A.

Disapproved.

No. 443 (Department of Nebraska)—Demand Accounting of All MIA's

Disapproved.

No. 444 (Department of Alabama)—Attacks on American Citizens

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the President of the United States in his attempts to protect the lives and freedoms of innocent American citizens abroad and his efforts to regain freedom for our citizens held captive by violent terrorists. (Adopted.)

No. 445 (Department of Idaho)—Aiding the Enemy

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that any persons convicted of selling or in any way transferring military or defense secrets to a foreign agent be given the maximum punishment. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 446 (Department of California)—The VFW: Anti-Communist, Pro-American and Proud of It

Disapproved.

No. 447 (Department of California)—Halt the Hemorrhage of Technology

Disapproved.

No. 448 (Department of California)—Non-Intervention in Central America

Disapproved.

No. 449 (Department of California)—Support for the International Medical Corps

Tabled.

No. 450 (Department of California)—Prisoners of War Still Missing in Action in Southeast Asia (POW/MIAS)

Disapproved.

No. 451 (Department of Germany)—Revitalize U.S. Civil Defense

Disapproved.

No. 452 (Department of Louisiana)—Strategic Defense Initiative

Disapproved.

No. 453 (Department of Louisiana)—Restore Monroe Doctrine

Disapproved.

No. 454 (Department of Louisiana)—Oppose Genocide Treaty

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and members of the U.S. Senate to vote against the Genocide Treaty, and that any vote on the treaty should include the following language:

1. That legislation needed to implement the treaty not conflict with the United States Constitution.
2. That the United States not accept jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in matters that the United States determines are domestic in nature. (Adopted.)

No. 455 (Department of Louisiana)—Reduce UN Financial Support

Disapproved.

No. 456 (Department of Massachusetts)—Support of Universal Government Service

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress to establish a system of universal military training and serve for an appropriate period of time as a vital tool for the assurance of national military security; and

Be it further resolved, that the Congress provide an alternate public service requirement for those not selected for military service. (Adopted.)

No. 457 (Department of Michigan)—Approve Star Wars Outerspace Defense

Disapproved.

No. 458 (Department of Nevada)—Oppose Effort to Convert the Corporate Joint Chiefs of Staff System Into a National General Staff System

Disapproved.

No. 459 (Department of Pacific Areas)—United States Support for the Republic of Korea

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the United States increase its military and economic aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea by providing modern state-of-the-art weapons and technology to safeguard her freedom, sustain her development and promote the cause of stability and peaceful development in the Pacific and Asian areas; and

Be it further resolved, that the United States provide a strong flexible military force in the Republic of Korea to respond to any military and/or political aggression by North Korea. (Adopted.)

No. 460 (Department of Pacific Areas)—Diplomatic and Military Relations With the Republic of China

Disapproved.

No. 461 (Department of Pacific Areas)—Caution in Relations With the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Executive Branch of the United States Government to use extreme caution in all relations with both the Peoples Republic of China and the Soviet Union, and refrain from making any military equipment available to the Peoples Republic of China. (Adopted.)

No. 462 (Department of Pacific Areas)—Sale of Military Equipment to the Republic of China

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the immediate sale of the F-20 fighter aircraft Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and other such necessary military hardware to the Republic of China. (Adopted.)

No. 463 (Department of Pacific Areas)—High Technology Transfer to North Korea

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the U.S. government take all necessary measures to prevent any further influx of western military equipment, including those commercial products readily adaptable to military use, and state-of-the-art technology, into North Korea; and

Be it further resolved, that the Department of Justice, Government of the United States conduct a complete investigation into the acquisition by North Korea of U.S. built Hughes helicopters, and should evidence be discovered to support charges of an indictable offense, those concerned; U.S. citizens, U.S. residents, U.S. corporations, licensed or incorporated foreign owned or managed businesses, or any other individuals or companies under United States jurisdiction, be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. (Adopted.)

No. 464 (Department of West Virginia)—Continue the POW/MIA Subcommittee of the National Security Committee

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that this Convention recommends to the Commander-in-Chief that the POW/MIA Subcommittee of the National Security Committee be continued under the superb and informed leadership of Lt. Gen. John Flynn, USAF (Ret.), Senior U.S. POW from Southeast Asia and Chairman of the VA POW Advisory Board, and that the Commander-in-Chief, by General Order, direct that each State Commander appoint a POW/MIA point of contact at the state level to ensure the implementation of the resolutions and directives pertinent to the POW/MIA matters as adopted by the National Convention; and

Be it further resolved, that National level will:

(a) ensure routine distribution to the field of pertinent information received from the State Department, Defense Department and the National League of Families on a routine basis;

(b) encourage participation in this program by veterans groups of other friendly nations such as the NATO allies and Far Eastern allies; and

(c) encourage exchange of information among state POW/MIA Chairman to include publishing up-to-date address lists; and

Be it further resolved, that each Department excercise maximum initiatives to maintain the vitality and thrust of the POW/MIA program at Department and local levels by encouraging such actions as:

(a) display of the black POW/MIA flag, subordinate to the U.S. Flag, at any function at which it is proper to fly the U.S. Flag;

(b) working closely with National, State and local representatives of the National League of Families, reproducing their literature down to Post level, insuring space for the National League of Families booth at all major events, and rendering cooperation and support to them;

(c) encourage support in information exchange at Post levels; and

(d) appoint an interested member at Post level to act as the POW/MIA project agent.

Be it further resolved, that we support only fundraising activities for the National League of Families on this issue due to the fact many individuals and groups are conducting fundraising activities for events which are against the United States Government's progressive activities for accountability of our POW/MIAs. (Adopted.)

No. 465 (Department of Massachusetts)—Pay and Incentives for Reserve Forces Health Care Professionals

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the enactment of special pay and incentive legislation similar to Public Law 96-284 for Reserve Health Care Professionals. (Adopted.)

No. 466 (Department of Michigan and Oklahoma)—Support National Guard and Reserve

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we pledge our support to the National Guard and Reserve and also to employers that provide employment opportunities to those members serving in the National Guard and Reserve; and

Be it further resolved, that we pledge our support to the National and State Committees for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. (Adopted)

No. 467 (Department of Illinois)—The U.S. Military: Unemployment (A Calling Not A Job)

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue our unflinching support of an Emergency Extension on Unemployment Compensation be given to all honorably discharged veterans and the term JOB to be dropped for all components of our uniformed services to the entitlement which accompany a short term or career military service, and which, then cannot be summarily withdrawn from him or her in service or following his or her period of service. (Adopted.)

No. 468 (Department of Michigan) Authorize AFEM for Military Personnel Serving on Foregin Soil Who Come Under Terrorist Attack

Disapproved.

No. 469 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Retaliation to the Terrorists

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we wholeheartedly support the Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States, as our leader in this grave emergency and we urge the people of the country to do the same; and

Be it further resolved, that we encourage the news media to exercise some restraint and report the news in a factual and accurate manner without dramatization; and

Be it further resolved, that we encourage the airlines to avoid the use of those airports in countries that do not provide adequate security measures and the safety of the planes and their passengers; and

Be it further resolved, that we introduce and support legislation to completely cease all economic aid and trade of all types with these countries. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 470 (Department of Illinois)—Issuance of Medal to Next of Kin of MIA's of World War I, World War II and Korea

Tabled.

No. 471 (Department of Pennsylvania)—POW/MIA Issue Brought to An End By Total Accountability

Disapproved.

No. 472 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Korean Service Eligibility

Disapproved.

No. 473 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Death Penalty for Spying

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation that calls for the death penalty for those individuals found guilty of acts of spying and of passing along to a foreign power information or materials that are highly classified. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 474 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Making Lists of Graduating Seniors Available to Armed Forces Recruiters

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support House Bill 370 which would require the superintendent of every public school district to make lists of graduating seniors available to Armed Forces recruiters upon request. (Adopted.)

No. 475 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Medal and Ribbon for All POW/MIA's

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that through legislative effort or other means, we petition the Department of Defense to design and issue a medal and ribbon honoring all former POW's and MIA's. (Adopted.)

No. 476 (Department of Georgia)—Support Resolution of POW/MIA Issue

Disapproved.

No. 477 (Department of New Mexico)—Military Retirement Pay

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the current retirement system, including a method of maintaining the individual retirees purchasing power be retained as essential to our National Security. (Adopted.)

No. 478 (Departments of Colorado, Tennessee and Virginia)—Appropriations to International Lending Agencies

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that future congressional appropriations to international lending agencies be contingent on such agencies' compliance with strict standards which would exclude loans to nations which are demonstrably hostile to the United States, including communist and communist-dominated countries and countries which do not cooperate in our search for MIA/POW victims of past wars. (Adopted.)

No. 479 (Department of Minnesota)—Oppose Constitutional Amendment Calling for a Constitution Convention

Disapproved.

No. 480 (Department of Minnesota)—Petition Defense Department to Provide AFEM Ribbons for Korean Service.

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Commander-in-Chief use every influence possible to request that the Joints Chiefs of Staff issue the proper Occupation or Expeditionary medal that would provide the necessary eligibility for the veterans to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars. (Adopted.)

No. 481 (Department of Minnesota)—Nuclear "Freeze" No! Peace Through Strength Yes!

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we recommend:

(a) the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States sustains our support for sharp reductions of nuclear weapons to equal, balanced and verifiable levels;

(b) we support the majority of Congress who are members of the "Coalition for Peace Through Strength;"

(c) should hard evidence be uncovered of reported communist manipulation of the nuclear freeze movement, we call upon the Department of Justice to aggressively seek out and prosecute such synical manipulators in our midst; and

(d) we support the need to modernize the land-based ICBMs through the development of the MX "Peacekeeper" and development of the "Midgetman" system. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 482 (Department of Virginia)—Priority Attention to Philippine Crisis

Disapproved.

No. 483 (Department of Virginia)—Continue to Halt Shocking Waste in Pentagon Spare Parts Procurement

Disapproved.

No. 484 (Department of Virginia)—Modernization of Chemical Weapons Overdue

Disapproved.

No. 485 (Department of Virginia)—Arms Control Violations

Disapproved.

No. 486 (Department of Virginia)—Prevent U.S. Adherence to the United Nations Genocide Treaty.

Disapproved.

No. 487 (Department of Virginia)—Strengthen the Conventional Defense of Western Europe

Disapproved.

No. 488 (Department of New York)—VFW Designate the "Red Ribbon With Daisy" for Concern for POW/MIAS

Disapproved.

No. 489 (Department of Virginia)—Changing the Constitution

Disapproved.

No. 490 (Department of Virginia)—Selective Service Registration

Disapproved.

No. 491 (Department of Mississippi)—Absentee Ballot Reform

Disapproved.

No. 492 (Department of New York)—Complete Accounting of All POW/MIAS

Disapproved.

No. 493 (Department of Missouri)—Adopt Educational Measures in Addition to Military Preparedness

Disapproved.

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that our nation adopt educational measures in addition to military preparedness. That we owe the students in our schools, to inform them, as part of their education, of the ideals under which our nation was born, of the faith of the Founding Fathers, of the Founders' appeal to the Creator, as in the Declaration of Independence, of American Achievement, not only of its sciences, its technology and its commerce, but also of a continuously free society and finally of the danger to our freedom from Communism.

Be it further resolved, that the VFW Americanism Committee take this resolution for action. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 494 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Support U.S. President Against Terrorism

Disapproved.

No. 495 (Department of Maryland)—Support U.S. President Against Terrorism

Disapproved.

No. 496 (Department of Maryland)—Disclosure of Secrets to Communists

Disapproved.

No. 497 (Department of Hawaii)—America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action: Adoption of H. Con. Res. 129

Disapproved.

No. 498 (Commander-in-Chief)—Support for Comprehensive Improvements in Our Counterintelligence

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the President and the Congress to realize our internal security is so weak it endangers our national security; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge the President and Congress to take the lead now by;

(a) examining the ability of hostile intelligence services to penetrate our security and reappraising our own counterintelligence capability; and

(b) taking action to greatly increase the resources and capabilities of our own counterintelligence, in accordance with our laws, so that both our secrets and our citizens are safe from espionage and terrorism. (Adopted.)

No. 499 (Commander-in-Chief)—Bipartisan Support Needed Now for Central America, the Caribbean and South America

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Administration and the Congress to express and demonstrate their support for democracy throughout the Western Hemisphere by holding the line against further communist intrusion; and

Be it further resolved, that the Administration and the Congress recognize the validity of the Bipartisan Commission's conclusions and recommendations by:

(a) adopting resolute policies that force the retreat of communism from the region and which enforce the sense of the Monroe Doctrine; and

(b) provide all the necessary economic assistance and political support and other aid as required by the struggling democracies and democratic movements of this region to overcome their mounting problems and halt the establishment of Marxist regimes. (Adopted.)

No. 500 (Commander-in-Chief)—Apportionment of Armed Forces Retired Pay

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we adamantly oppose the passage of any such legislation apportioning Armed Service retired pay. (Adopted.)

No. 501 (Department of California)—Apartheid Government of South Africa

Disapproved.

No. 502 (Department of California)—Defense Contractor Overcharging
Disapproved.

CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE

No. 601 (Many Departments)—Proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the President of the United States Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to ensure that any proposed Equal Rights Amendment brought to the floor for a vote be brought up under an "open rule" to permit whatever amendments may be offered to be voted up or down; and

Be it further resolved, that any proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution will be wholly unacceptable unless amended to state:

1. "This article shall not be construed to affect any benefit or preference given by the United States or any State to veterans," and
2. "This article shall not be construed to require the assignment of women to military combat"; and

Be it further resolved, that if any proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution sent to the States for ratification is not amended as stated above, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will oppose its ratification in every State in the Union with every resource at our disposal. (Adopted.)

No. 602 (Many Departments)—Opposition to Inclusion of VA Hospital System in Any National Health Insurance Plan

Disapproved.

No. 603 (Many Departments)—Feres Doctrine and Armed Forces Personnel

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to alleviate this disparity by extending protection of the Federal Tort Claims Act to active duty Armed Forces personnel, as deals with medical malpractice. (Adopted.)

No. 604 (Many Departments)—Amend title 38, US Code

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Title 38, US Code be amended to ensure that veterans enrolled in NCD courses in accredited institutions which offer both NCD and IHL types of courses shall be subject to the same regulations mandated by Title 38, US Code for those veterans pursuing IHL courses. (Adopted.)

No. 605 (Many Departments)—Means Test for Nonservice Connected Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 606 (Many Departments)—Ten Dollar Attorney Fee

Disapproved.

No. 607 (Many Departments)—Judicial Review

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we reaffirm once again, support for legislation which would provide judicial review in appropriate U.S. District Courts of benefit claims decisions concerning questions of law and regulation. (Adopted.)

No. 608 (Many Departments)—Herbicide Exposure of Women Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request Congress authorize a study by the Centers for Disease Control of female veterans to include health effects of herbicide exposure on the female reproductive system and a Vietnam experience study similar to the one being conducted on male veterans. (Adopted.)

No. 609 (Many Departments)—Expand PTSD Treatment Program

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that through legislative effort or other means specific funding be earmarked for the establishment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Units at all suitable VA medical treatment facilities. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 610 (Many Departments)—Incentive Therapy Program

Disapproved.

No. 611 (Many Departments)—Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue to support enactment of legislation to eliminate the offset of social security survivor benefits which are based on the retiree's military service, and to eliminate the prohibition of concurrent payment of DIC and the full SBP annuity. (Adopted.)

No. 612 (Many Departments)—Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide for preferential provision of services to veterans in programs authorized by Title II A and Title III JTPA and that a reporting system to determine veterans' participation in these programs be developed; and

Be it further resolved, that we support legislation to increase the total amount appropriated to veterans' employment programs Title IV C JTPA to be not less than 20 percent of the total amount appropriated pursuant to Section 3 (a) (2) Public Law 97-300; and

Be it further resolved, that we hereby strenously oppose any and all attempts to weaken or eliminate funding for veterans' employment programs authorized in accordance with the Job Training Partnership Act and we request the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to change section 102(a)(2) to include the appointment of an active member of a chartered veterans organization to the private industrial council. (Adopted as Amended.)

No. 613 (Many Departments)—Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act (EVJTA)

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Congress of the United States to:

1. extend the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act initial applications and training commencement deadlines until August 31, 1987, and September 1, 1987, respectively

2. change veterans eligibility reducing the period of unemployment from 15 of the preceding 20 weeks to 5 of the preceding 20 weeks.

3. that adequate funding be authorized and appropriated to the Veterans Administration and that these funds remain available through September 30, 1989

4. that out of the total appropriation, administrative funds be allocated for the purpose of conducting outreach to promote awareness of the veterans and employer communities

5. Section 18, Public Law 98-77 be extended and funding to support vocational education programs be provided through September 1, 1988. (Adopted as amdended.)

No. 614 (Many Departments)—New Legislative Initiatives

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the Congress of the United States to appropriately fund all new legislative initiatives rather than eliminate or reduce existing veterans' entitlements or programs. (Adopted.)

No. 615 (Many Departments)—Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) Program

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Congress to:

1. extend the TJTC Program to December 31, 1990

2. increase the amount of wages for which tax credit is allowed from $6,000 to $10,000 for a period of one year

3. that veterans eligibility for participation in the TJTC Program be modified to coincide with Section 320 (a)(1), (2), (3) Public Law 97-300

4. that a "veteran" be defined in accordance with paragraph 2011(4) Title 38 USC. (Adopted.)

No. 616 (Many Departments)—Vocational Rehabilitation

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, in order to assist qualified veterans in obtaining meaningful employment, initiate special projects utilizing state of the art technology to determine occupational aptitude and ability, job availability and job reengineering as applicable in the placement of qualified disabled veterans. (Adopted.)

No. 617 (Many Departments)—Staffing Reductions in Veterans Administration Hospital System

Be it resolved, that the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, opposes further reductions of medical care personnel within the Department of Medicine and Surgery of the Veterans Administration. (Adopted.)

No. 618 (Many Departments)—Third Party Payments for Veterans Health Care

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we unalterably oppose any congressional enactment of legislation empowering the Veterans Administration or any other agency of the United State Government to collect funds from private insurance companies to defray the costs that the Nation incurs to care for its veterans excepting beneficiaries covered by Section 629, Title 38, U.S. Code. (Adopted.)

No. 619 (Many Departments)—Reduction of Medical Care for Nonservice Connected Veterans 65 Years of Age and Older

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly oppose the repeal of this law. (Adopted.)

No. 620 (Many Departments)—Vietnam Era GI Bill and Vocational Rehabilitation

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to remove the delimiting and expiration dates of VA educational benefits for veterans with active service after August 4, 1964. (Adopted.)

No. 621 (Many Departments)—World War I pension

Disapproved.

No. 622 (Many Departments)—Restore Eligibility to Benefits.

Disapproved.

No. 623 (Many Departments)—VA Home Loan Guaranty Program

Disapproved.

No. 624 (Many Departments)—To Provide for an Open National Cemetery in Every State of the United States, that we support legislation to provide for at least one open National Cemetery in each state to assure that all veterans may be buried in a National Cemetery reasonably close to their homes. (Adopted.)

No. 625 (Many Departments)—Funding for a new Visitors Center for Arlington National Cemetery

Be it resolved,, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of both the Senate and House Appropriations Committee to include additional funds in the amount of $8 million in the fiscal year 1986 and a sum of $9 million in the fiscal year 1987 appropriation for completion of construction of a new visitors center at Arlington National Cemetery to honor with proper dignity our fallen comrades. (Adopted.)

No. 626 (Many Departments)—JROTC Instructor Pay and Allowances

Be it resolved,, by the 86th National of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation that will provide for payment of living quarters allowance that all other teachers receive and to amend title 10, USC to correct an inequity which discriminates against one class of school teachers, namely those retired officers and NCO's who instruct the DOD DS overseas JROTC units. (Adopted.)

No. 627 (Many Departments)—Disposition of Remains of Retirees

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to amend 10 USC 1486 to include military retirees. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 628 (Many Departments)—Overseas Employment Opportunities With the Armed Forces for Retires

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would reopen the discussion to change or modify the Status of Force Agreement to permit employment of retirees with the U.S. Armed Forces on an equal employment opportunity basis overseas. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 629 (Many Departments)—Post Exchange and Commissary Privileges for Retirees in Overseas Areas

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Department of State to reopen negotiations with the host countries on these conditions set forth in the Status of Forces Agreement. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 630 (Many Departments)—Recomputation of Retiree Pay for Pre-1970 Retirees

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation to recompute the retiree pay of those Armed Forces members who retired prior to 1970, provided that the recomputation would not result in a loss of retired pay. (Adopted.)

No. 631 (Many Departments)—Use of Military Postal Service by the VFW

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation to have the Department of Defense reconsider changing its ruling on the Veterans of Foreign Wars use of the United States Military Postal Service. (Adopted.)

No. 632 (Many Departments)—Postal Privileges for Box R Patrons

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek action by the Department of Defense to restore full postal privileges to Box R patrons, to include removal of the present weight restrictions. (Adopted.)

No. 633 (Department of Arizona)—Designate the Phoenix VA Medical Center as the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to give tangible, lasting testimony to the memory of Arizona's outstanding statesman by designating the Phoenix VA Medical Center as the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center. (Adopted.)

No. 634 (Department of Wyoming)—Amend Chapter 30 Title 38, USC

Disapproved.

No. 635 (Department of North Dakota)—Provide Outpatient Treatment Fee Basis Authority for Former Prisoners-of-War

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support enactment of legislation to amend Title 38, U.S. Code to provide outpatient treatment fee basis care to all former prisoners-of-war. (Adopted.)

No. 636 (Department of North Dakota)—Opposing the Administration's Proposed New Policies to Curtail Eligibility and Reduce Benefits in the Veterans Administration Health Care Program

Disapproved.

No. 637 (Department of North Dakota)—Opposing the Administration Disability Compensation Freeze

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any elimination of the inflationary protection provided by the annual cost of living adjustments on compensation for service connected disabilities. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 638 (Department of North Dakota)—Opposing Taxing of VA Compensation Paid to Disabled Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any State or Federal legislation or tax reform that would impose an income tax on the disability benefits of veterans or their dependents. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 639 (Department of North Dakota)—To Oppose Contracting Out to Private Contractors Certain Services Currently Performed by Federal Employees

Disapproved.

No. 640 (Departments of Minnesota and North Dakota)—Authorizing a Full Range of Chiropractic Services for Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 641 (Department of North Dakota)—To Provide a Ten Year Protection Period for Service-Connected Disability Evaluation

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to provided that Section 110 of Title 38, U.S. Code, be amended to provide that disability evaluations continuously in effect at the same evaluation rate be protected after a period of 10 years. (Adopted.)

No. 642 (Department of North Dakota)—Requesting One Standard Rate of All DIC Payments

Disapproved.

No. 643 (Department of North Dakota)—Rejection in Total of Any Proposals Made by the Grace Commission That Would Adversely Affect in Any Way Benefits and Programs Administered by the Veterans Administration for Veterans and Their Dependents

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we reject in total any proposals made by the Grace Commission that would adversely affect in any way benefits and programs administered by the Veterans Administration for veterans and their dependents. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 644 (Department of North Dakota)—Opposing the Consolidation of VA Regional Offices

Disapproved.

No. 645 (Department of North Dakota)—To Increase the Face Value of National Service Life Insurance to $20,000

Disapproved.

No. 646 (Department of North Dakota)—To Extend Outpatient Dental Care to Service-Connected Veterans Rated 50% or More Disabled

Disapproved.

No. 647 (Department of North Dakota)—Disability Compensation Increase

Disapproved.

No. 648 (Department of District of Columbia)—Opposition to Inclusion of VA Hospital System in Any National Health Insurance Plan, or Any Consolidation With Health Care Systems Not Related to Military Service

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we vigorously oppose any National Health Insurance Plan or other consolidation with non-military related Health Care Systems which would incorporate or dissolve any part of the VA Hospital System. (Adopted.)

No. 649 (Department of District of Columbia)—Means Test for Nonservice Connected Veterans

Be it resolved, the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the provisions as enumerated in Section 401 of Public Law 96-330 requiring the VA to conduct a means test on all nonservice connected veterans under age 65 seeking medical care be eliminated; and

Be it further resolved, that we oppose any form of means test to obtain VA health care, regardless of the age of the veteran. (Adopted.)

No. 650 (Department of District of Columbia)—Judicial Review

Disapproved.

No. 651 (Department of District of Columbia)—Budgeting Veterans Entitlements

Disapproved.

No. 652 (Department of District of Columbia)—Third Party Payments for Veterans Health Care

Disapproved.

No. 653 (Department of District of Columbia)—Restore Eligibility to Benefits

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation restoring eligibility to benefits for this group of veterans who served during the period of November 12, 1918, and July 2, 1921. (Adopted.)

No. 654 (Department of District of Columbia)—VA Home Loan Guaranty Program

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek the introduction and enactment of legislation that will serve to maintain the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program as the most viable and desirable means of home financing; and

Be it further resolved, that every effort be made to resist any adverse or discriminatory action which would undermine this valuable program or the veteran's ability to participate in it; and

Be it further resolved, that we adamantly oppose any effort to increase further the current user fee; and

Be it further resolved, that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs and other concerned parties be encourage to actively assist veterans in maintaining their homes during economic crisis. (Adopted.)

No. 655 (Department of Connecticut)—Judicial Review

Disapproved.

No. 656 (Department of Connecticut)—To Modify the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) Program in Order to Enable All Veterans to Participate in the Program

Disapproved.

No. 657 (Department of Connecticut)—Amend Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code, Section 2004, Regarding the Assignment of the Local Veterans Employment Representative

Disapproved.

No. 658 (Department of Connecticut)—Increase Apprenticeship Opportunities for Veterans by Actively Promoting Veterans Preference, Eliminating Any Maximum Age Restrictions, and Provide Funding Specifically for Veterans Programs

Disapproved.

No. 659 (Department of Connecticut)—Amend the Reporting Procedures Regarding Employment Services to Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 660 (Department of Connecticut)—Concerning Per Diem Rate for State Veterans Home, Hospitals and Domiciliaries

Disapproved.

No. 661 (Department of Connecticut)—Change of Dates for Entitlement Under the Provision of U.S. Code, Title 38, Subsection 101, (29) for Vietnam Era

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek legislation in the Congress of the United States that will provide for recognition by the Veterans Administration, under the provisions of U.S. Code, Title 38, subsection 101 (29) by changing the date of the "Vietnam era" now beginning August 5, 1964, and ending May 7, 1975 to July 1, 1958, to May 7, 1975. (Adopted.)

No. 662 (Department of Connecticut)—Concerning Recent Changes in Policy by the Department Medicine and Surgery, Veterans Administration

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States to fund the Veterans Administration Medical Centers for all of its needs to include nursing home care within the Medical Centers, to keep a promise to our veterans; and

Be it further resolved, when new policies or policy changes are to be made that affect the veterans in the Medical Centers of nursing care units by the Department of Medicine and Surgery, consideration should be given on a case by case basis with special consideration given to those who have spent a large portion of their adult life protected by such institutions, and the traumatic results on their being discharged or released to another agency; and

Be it further resolved, that the promises given to our veterans in good faith, and taken in good faith, be kept by the United States Government, because America is number one, thanks to its veterans. (Adopted.)

No. 663 (Department of Connecticut)—Freeze on Discharge from Home Nursing Units

Disapproved.

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No. 664 (Department of Connecticut)—Change of Dates for Entitlement Under the Provision of U.S. Code, Title 38

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we will ask Congress not to wait 55 years to correct the inequities and injustices caused by not equally recognizing all the holders of such medal or medals awarded by the Armed Forces and the Navy and Marine Corps; and

Be it further resolved, that in the interest of equity, justice and good conscience, that we seek legislation in the Congress of the United States that will provide for recognition by the Veterans Administration by amending U.S. Code, Title 38, to award the same VA benefits to all recipients of the Armed Forces and the Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medals, provided for in U.S. Code, Title 38, 101, subsection (6) and (30). (Adopted.)

No. 665 (Department of Connecticut)—In Support of the Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference Resolution an Amendment to Chapter 30 Title 38 (Veterans Education Assistant Act of 1984)

Disapproved.

No. 666 (Department of Connecticut)—Restoring and Increase Funding for the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Programs

Disapproved.

No. 667 (Department of Connecticut)—In Support of the Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference Resolution for Expanded and Improved Progams

Disapproved.

No. 668 (Department of Connecticut)—In Support of the Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference Resolution Removal of Age Barriers in Apprenticeship for All Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 669 (Department of Nebraska)—Restore Criteria for LVER's Assignments

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Veterans Employment and Training Service to restore the 6,000 veterans and other eligibles criteria in addition to the 1,000 new and renewal application requirement. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 670 (Department of Alabama)—Funding of the LVER/DVOP Program

Disapproved.

No. 671 (Department of Alabama)—Funding of the Veterans Employment Service

Disapproved.

No. 672 (Departments of Arkansas and Utah)—Special Employment Program for Older Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we hereby go on record petitioning the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to authorize and direct the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training to implement a special program to meet the employment needs of older veterans; and

Be it further resolved, that special funds be made available to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training to assist needy older veterans. (Adopted.)

No. 673 (Departments of Arkansas and Oklahoma)—Do Not Break Faith With Veterans—Maintain Benefits

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we hereby go on record petitioning the Congress of the United States to not break faith with those veterans that served the nation in time of war by reducing or curtailing current benefits provided by the Veterans Administration. (Adopted.)

No. 674 (Departments of Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Utah)—Change Method LVER and DVOP Positions are Allocated

Disapproved.

No. 675 (Departments of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Utah and Wisconsin)—No Change in Wagner Peyser & Funding of Employment Programs

Disapproved.

No. 676 (Department of Arkansas)—Change LVER Allocating Formula

Disapproved.

No. 677 (Department of Arkansas)—Extend EVJTA and Change Requirements

Disapproved.

No. 678 (Department of Arkansas)—Change UI Law for Servicemen

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States to appeal or amend Public Law 96-364 Section 415(a)(1)(A) by striking the above stated restrictions and stating that the State law will govern payment of unemployment compensation to ex-servicepersons. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 679 (Departments of Arkansas, Michigan, Oklahoma and Utah)—Adequate Funding for Vets

Disapproved.

No. 680 (Department of Idaho)—Continue Champus for Military Retiree's After Age 65

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to provide for CHAMPUS protection for military retirees and their eligible dependents as a lifetime benefit. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 681 (Department of Idaho)—Per Diem Rate for State Veterans Homes, Hospitals and Domiciliaries

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Veterans Administration petition the Congress of the United States for provisions to pay a per diem rate between the rate for Domiciliary (currently $7.30 per day) and Nursing Care (currently $17.05 per day). (Adopted.)

No. 682 (Department of California)—Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

Disapproved.

No. 683 (Department of California)—Retention of an Adequate Surgical Department at the Livermore VAMC, California.

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Veterans Administration be urged not to close the surgical service at Livermore VAMC, California. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 684 (Department of California)—Preservation of the National Soldier Home Located at the VA Center, West Los Angeles

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we request that the United States Congress ensure adherence to the expressed wishes of the donors of said land, that the terms and consideration of the grant be adhered to, that the Pacific branch of the National Soldiers Home for Disabled Veterans be maintained on said property, that an opportunity be offered to those who were displaced from said National Soldiers Home to return thereto and that the admission requirements for entering the home revert back to the original status. (Adopted.)

No. 685 (Department of California)—Establishment of an Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Veterans Administration to establish a full-time Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California, with a population in excess of 700,000 and a distance in excess of 100 miles to the nearest Veterans Administration Medical Hospital facilities. (Adopted.)

No. 686 (Department of California)—Veterans Organ Donor Program

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Veterans Administration institute an administrative program within the VA system to communicate and explain information to veterans on how they may become an organ donor and to actively solicit participants in a veterans organ program by revising VA Form 10-10 or an appropriate VA Form to include a segment providing for organ donation; and

Be it further resolved, that the Veterans Administration develop procedures which permit the widest dissemination of the existence of the veterans wishes to participate in the organ donor program to help save veterans that are unable to obtain needed transplants because of a critical shortage of transplantable organs. (Adopted.)

No. 687 (Department of California)—Establishment of a VA Satellite Outpatient Clinic in Redding, California

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the establishment of a VA Satellite Outpatient Clinic in Redding, California. (Adopted.)

No. 688 (Department of California)—Career Awareness Program

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we encourage the other 49 states to consider the adoption of California's Career Awareness Program as a model. (Adopted.)

No. 689 (Department of California)—Recognition of Former U.S. Marine Embassy and Legation Guards Stationed in North China in 1941

Disapproved.

No. 690 (Department of California)—Amend Public Law 97-37

Disapproved.

No. 691 (Department of California)—VFW Hospital Volunteer Award Pins

Disapproved.

No. 692 (Department of Germany)—Reestablish a Veterans Administration Assistance Office in the Federal Republic of Germany

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Veterans Administration to reopen a Veterans Administration Assistance Office in The Federal Republic of Germany to Support U.S. citizen personnel in Europe. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 693 (Department of Illinois)—Support Amendment to Chapter 30, Title 38, U.S.C.

Disapproved.

No. 694 (Department of Massachusetts)—Elimination of Forfeiture of Reserve & VA Disability Pay to Reserve Personnel With VA Compensated Disabilities

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation which would amend 10 U.S.C. 684(a) and 38 U.S.C. 3104 to permit full compensation to disabled reservists without offset of either their reserve pay or Veterans Administration Disability Compensation and that this organization seek the Chairmen of the Armed Services Committees and Veterans Committees of the United States Congress to present testimony to support this measure. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 695 (Department of Massachusetts)—Provide Adequate Staff Funding for Training and Employment of Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request adequate staffing and funding be made available to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training and to the Veterans Employment and Training Service of the United States Department of Labor to implement the laws as mandated to carry out the above-mentioned special needs of all veterans. (Adopted.)

No. 696 (Department of Massachusetts)—To Oppose Contracting Out to Private Contractors Certain Services Currently Performed by Federal Employees

Disapproved.

No. 697 (Department of Maine)—Use of VA Per Diem in State Veterans Home

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the introduction and passage of legislation to amend 38 USC to provide that the per diem paid by the Veterans Administration for the care of veterans in State Homes shall not be used to offset payments made under Medicare for the purpose of assisting eligible veterans. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 698 (Department of Massachusetts)—Shortages in Medical Professionals

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we:

1. Urge the Secretary of Defense to inaugurate a continuing referral campaign to provide names of qualified healing arts professionals to the Army, Navy, Coast

Guard and Air Force recruiting activities. (Use of "Toll Free" 800 recruiting telephone lines for this purpose is encouraged.)

2. Urge the Secretary of Defense to devise and initiate innovative programs to attract required hard-skill healing arts professionals into military service by means of scholarship programs in appropriate public institutions in return for stipulated periods of active and/or inactive military service.

3. Urge the Secretary of Defense to devise and install applicable new programs for recruiting hospital corpsmen, medics and medical technicians, training them in either the public or private sector.

4. Urge the Secretary of Defense to allot Reserve man-days for the specific purpose of recruiting personnel for the healing arts. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 699 (Department of Massachusetts)—Operation of Defense Installation Commissary Facilities

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to continue its support of this military benefit which is an incentive to serve in the military forces, particularly for military enlisted personnel, junior officers and retired personnel. (Adopted.)

No. 700 (Department of Massachusetts)—Statutory Protection of Reservists in Employment

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we recommend that the Congress of the United States pass legislation to protect members of the Reserve Components from discrimination in initial hiring by virtue of the fact that they are a member of the Reserve Components. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 701 (Department of Michigan)—Amend Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S.C.

Disapproved.

No. 702 (Department of Michigan)—Replacement of VAMC, Allen Park, Michigan

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to seek funds for the replacement of the Allen Park VAMC to be constructed adjacent to the Wayne State School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan; and

Be it further resolved, that the Allen Park VAMC not be closed after the new hospital becomes operational, but be used for treatment of psychiatric disorders, intermediate care, nursing care patients, domiciliary care and DVB Regional Office's activities. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 703 (Department of Texas)—"Catch 62"

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Congress of the United States enact such legislation as is necessary to rectify this. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 704 (Departments of New Mexico, Oklahoma and Utah)—Amend the Job Training Partnership Act

Disapproved.

No. 705 (Department of Nevada)—National Service Life Insurance

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that a moratorium be placed on the premiums after forty-five (45) years. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 706 (Department of Pacific Areas)—Support of Military Veterans and Retirees

Disapproved.

No. 707 (Department of West Virginia)—Veterans Employment Service

Disapproved.

No. 708 (Departments of Illinois, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina and West Virginia)—Apprenticeship Training

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States of America to amend the Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 1984 to include apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 709 (Department of Oregon)—World War I Pension

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress to enact legislation providing a statutory pension for all surviving veterans of World War I, not to affect income or entitle veterans benefits. (Adopted.)

No. 710 (Departments of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin)—Veterans' Administration Outpatient Clinic, Duluth, Minnesota

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we join with the Senators and Congressmen of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin to take immediate steps to lobby for, and secure funds to open and staff the Outpatient clinic in Duluth, Minnesota, beginning fiscal year 1986. (Adopted.)

No. 711 (Department of Ohio)—Provide Chiropractic Health Services

Disapproved.

No. 712 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Equalizing Unemployment Compensation

Disapproved.

No. 713 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Job Listing Compliance

Disapproved.

No. 714 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Retention of Veterans Employment Representatives

Disapproved.

No. 715 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Establish a Satellite VA Office in Western Pennsylvania

Disapproved.

No. 716 (Department of Pennsylvania)—Veterans Preference in Medical Clinical Clerkships

No. 717 (Department of South Dakota)—Veterans' Health Care

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support maintaining federal funding for the VA health care system benefits for ALL veterans, plus increasing VA health care facilities (hospitals, domiciliaries and nursing care homes/units) to provide long and short term care due to the increasing needs of the aging and younger veterans. (Adopted.)

No. 718 (Department of South Dakota)—Dental Care for All Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 719 (Department of South Dakota)—Upright Grave Markers for Black Hills National Cemetery

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose S. 769; and

Be it further resolved, that Senator Pressler and Senator Abdnor be advised of our opposition to S. 769; and

Be it further resolved, that said Senators be requested to support legislation to provide only upright markers in the Black Hills National Cemetery. (Adopted.)

No. 720 (Department of Virginia)—Proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution

Disapproved.

No. 721 (Department of Utah)—Disabled Veterans Waiver

Disapproved.

No. 722 (Departments of Oklahoma and Utah)—Monitor Federal Contract Programs for Veterans Employment and Training

Disapproved.

No. 723 (Departments of Oklahoma and Utah)—Implement Special Program to Meet Employment Needs of Older Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 724 (Department of Oklahoma)—Reactivate "Jobs for Veterans" Committee

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we (1) request the President of the United States to reactivate the President's "Jobs for Veterans" Committee to be made up volunteers and that governors and mayors be requested to organize similar "Jobs for Veterans" committees to aid and assist unemployed veterans; (2) requesting legislation, if necessary be enacted or the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training be authorized to assign Disabled Veterans Outreach Program personnel to serve as staff coordinators for local "Jobs for Veterans" committees; and (3) recommending Congress continue to appropriate Title IV, Part C, funds and authorize the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans and Training to contract with the respective governors to implement a statewide Governor's "Jobs for Veterans" Committee to develop local "Jobs for Veterans" committees throughout the state to work with agencies of government to increase services to unemployed veterans. (Adopted.)

No. 725 (Department of Oklahoma)—Amend Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S.C.

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to amend Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code, to establish the Regional Directors of Veterans Employment Training Service position by law. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 726 (Department of Oklahoma)—Civil Service Reform Act

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Office of Personnel Management to issue instructions to all federal agencies to maintain a roster of names, addresses, age, education and other pertinent information on those disabled veterans, rated 30% or more service-connected, that make applications for noncompetitive appointments, and directing each agency to file a quarterly report with the Office of Personnel Management listing names of those disabled veterans making applications for noncompetitive appointments, as well as those granted appointments provided by the act; and

Be it further resolved, that such lists of names shall be provided to the respective State Directors of the Veterans Employment and Training Service to provide follow-up job assistance to those veterans not employed by the federal government. (Adopted.)

No. 727 (Department of Oklahoma)—G.I. Loan Benefits

Disapproved.

No. 728 (Department of Oklahoma)—Veterans Preference for Federal Employment

Disapproved.

No. 729 (Department of Oklahoma)—Military Disability Retirement Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Defense to implement regulations to cause all military personnel being retired for service incurred medical disabilities to be referred to the Veterans Administration for rehabilitation under Chapter 31 for a position in the civilian labor forces at a Department of Defense installation if a position is available or for a job in the private sector; and

Be it further resolved, the Department of Defense negotiate an agreement with the Administrator of Veterans Affairs and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training to implement policies to coordinate efforts to cause rehabilitation and placement for persons retired on medical disabilities. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 730 (Department of Oklahoma)—Mail Prescription Medicine to Eligible Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 731 (Department of Oklahoma)—targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program

Disapproved.

No. 732 (Department of Wisconsin)—Extend Emergency Veterans Job Training Act

Disapproved.

No. 733 (Department of Wisconsin)—Waive Written Test for Disabled Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Office of Personnel Management to use their broad authority under law to facilitate the employment of veterans rated 30 percent or more service connected by waiving the written test requirement for those special disabled veterans under the 30 percent special hiring authority as already authorized under the Veterans' Readjustment Authority; and

Be it further resolved, that the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) include 30 percent or more compensable service-connected disabled veterans as a targeted disability group; and

Be it further resolved, that the Office of Management and Budget grant ceiling exemptions to federal agencies for disabled veterans hired under the special appointment authority for 30 percent or more. (Adopted.)

No. 734 (Department of Virginia)—Support HR 864

Disapproved.

No. 735 (Department of Wisconsin)—Monitor Federal Contractors and Subcontractors to Employ Disabled and Vietnam Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request the Congress of the United States to place the administration of monitoring of the federal contract program as related to veterans under the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, and to provide adequate funds to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training to inform federal contractors and subcontractors of their responsibility to take affirmative action to employ qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era, and terminate or discontinue awarding contracts to employers not willing to comply with the provisions of Public Law 92-540 and Public Law 93-508 pertaining to employing qualified disabled and Vietnam Era veterans. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 736 (Department of Wisconsin)—Urge Congress to Fund JTPA for Jobless Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 737 (Commander-in-Chief)—Radiation Exposure Medical Treatment and Compensation

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that when verification of exposure to radiation has been provided, that a veteran who suffers from any of the aforementioned disorders or any other conditions which have been caused by such exposure be entitled to medical treatment on a presumptive basis; and

Be it further resolved, that in any instance where exposure to radiation eventually led to the onset of cancer or thyroid nodules that service-connection for compensation purposes be granted on a presumptive basis. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 738 (Department of Wisconsin)—Atomic Radiation Exam Extension Date

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the current Veterans Administration expiration date be extended by Congress to June 30, 1986, so that such veterans can apply for a Veterans Administration exam through their county Veterans Service Officers; and

Be if further resolved, that an ambitious public relations program be implemented by the VFW in order that all veterans who were exposed to or in the proximity of any nuclear blasts can be informed. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 739 (Department of Wisconsin)—Recognize the Women Who Served in the Vietnam War

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project as a national project, to honor all servicewomen who served during the Vietnam War which will complete the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

Be it further resolved, that Congress be encouraged to appropriate the needed land at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Washington, D.C., by working through the Department of Interior, the Fine Arts Commission, the National Park Service, the Department of National Memorials and other necessary agencies. (Adopted.)

No. 740 (Departments of Colorado and Montana)—United States Veteran's Lottery Fund Program

Disapproved.

No. 741 (Department of Minnesota)—Incentive Therapy Program

Disapproved.

No. 742 (Department of Minnesota)—Oppose Taxing of Disability Benefits of Veterans

Disapproved.

No. 743 (Department of Minnesota)—Oppose Contracting Out of VA Services

Disapproved.

No. 744 (Department of Minnesota)—Retain VA Data Processing Center at Fort Snelling

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the Congress in its move to have the Executive Department examine the cost-effectiveness of any move of the Minnesota VA Date Processing Center; and

Be it further resolved, that in the event any proposed move of the Minnesota VA Date Processing Center is not cost effective that the Congress halt any proposed move. (Adopted.)

No. 745 (Department of Minnesota)—Support for the House Bill Before the House/Senate Conference Committee.

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we request that the conferees of the United States House of Representatives accept the House version of the appropriations in determining the budget for the Veterans Administration. (Adopted.)

No. 746 (Department of Minnesota)—Oppose Staff Reduction at National Cemeteries

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Department of Memorial Affairs continue to have as its mission to provide the care, upkeep, and internments at the National Cemeteries, and that the present staffing be maintained at the present levels and that the proposed reduction not be implemented. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 747 (Department of Minnesota)—Issue Completion of Phase Five in Construction of Minneapolis VAMC

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to Support the Cranston Amendment to the compromised budget to be considered by the Congress in order to insure the completion of Phase Five in the construction of the replacement Veterans Administration Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Adopted.)

No. 748 (Department of Minnesota)—Incentive Therapy Program

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to pass legislation to rectify this situatation which penalizes veterans undergoing incentive rehabilitation by amending Section 503, Title 38 U.S.C. to exclude income earned under Section 618, Title 38, U.S.C. (Adopted.)

No. 749 (Department of Minnesota)—Military Retiree's Preference at VA Medical Centers

Disapproved.

No. 750 (Department of Minnesota)—VAMC Reimbursement from Medicare, Third Party Insurers and Champus

Disapproved.

No. 751 (Department of Minnesota)—Oppose Consolidation of VA Regional Offices

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose totally any proposal to centralize veterans' claims processing services. (Adopted.)

No. 752 (Department of Minnesota)—Veterans Emergency Job Training Act

Disapproved.

No. 753 (Department of Virginia)—Allow Addition of Points to Scores Earned by Veterans on GATB Examinations

Disapproved.

No. 754 (Department of Virginia)—Authorize After the Fact Reimbursement for State Built Domiciliary Facilities

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we approve and transmit to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Veterans Administration, necessary changes in the applicable federal laws and Veterans Administration procedures, to allow reimbursement after completion of construction, provided such construction is accomplished in a manner to satisfy Veterans Administration standards and criteria. (Adopted.)

No. 755 (Department of Tennessee)—Robert Stetham Be Afforded All Benefits Entitled to a Combat Veteran

Disapproved.

No. 756 (Department of Tennessee)—Recognize Service Rendered By Four Marines Murdered in San Salvador

Disapproved.

No. 757 (Department of New Jersey)—Amend Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we shall sponsor immediate legislation to amend subsection (d)(4) of the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (P.L. 97-252, 10 U.S.C. 1408), to read ". . . shall terminate in accordance with the terms of the applicable court order, but not later than *ten years after the date of divorce, or upon the date of the remarriage of the former spouse*, or the date of the death of the member . . ., whichever occurs first." (Adopted.)

No. 758 (Department of Colorado)—VA Home Loan Guaranty Program

Disapproved.

No. 759 (Department of Texas)—Support for Veterans Employment Service

Disapproved.

No. 760 (Department of Texas)—Extend the Emergency Job Training Act

Disapproved.

No. 761 (Department of Texas)—Save the State Employment Service

Disapproved.

No. 762 (Department of New York)—Emergency Veterans Job Training Act (EVJTA)

Disapproved.

No. 763 (Department of New York)—VA Adjudication Procedure and Judicial Review Act

Disapproved.

No. 764 (Department of Nebraska)—Oppose Cut-Backs of Veterans Benefits

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any cut-backs of veterans benefits and do everything possible to enhance veterans entitlements and benefits. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 765 (Department of Missouri)—Equal Punishment for All

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we officially protest the adjudication of these alleged infractions. (Adopted as amended.)

No. 766 (Department of California)—Fee Base Health Care

Disapproved.

No. 767 (Department of New York)—VA Mobile Health Unit for Westchester, New York

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the efforts of Congressman Mario Biaggi; and

Be it further resolved, that we press the VA to provide this mobile health unit. (Adopted.)

No. 768 (Commander-in-Chief)—Employment Service Policy

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that we reaffirm our traditional policy and hereby strenuously oppose any and all attempts to weaken or destroy our nation employment service. (Adopted.)

No. 769 (Commander-in-Chief) Veterans' Preference

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we reaffirm our traditional policy and hereby strenuously oppose any and all attempts to weaken or destroy veterans' rights and preference in federal and public employment; and

Be it further resolved, that the President and the Congress of the United States reject any and all proposed legislation or regulatory change that would reduce employment opportunities for veterans in the federal and public workforce. (Adopted.)

No. 770 (Commander-in-Chief)—Contracting Out

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that we petition Congress to enact legislation to provide that positions currently held by veterans be not contracted without a bona fide effort being made to preserve that position for veteran hires; and

Be it further resolved, that all federal agencies having personnel vacancies that may be met through contracting shall take affirmative action to solicit known Vietnam era veterans and/or disabled veteran-owned sources to fulfill these requirements, including assisting those firms to fulfill federal employee contract requirements. (Adopted.)

No. 771 (Commander-in-Chief)—Increased Apprenticeship Opportunities for Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to support legislation to promote increased participation of veterans in apprenticeship, foster veterans' preference by eliminating any maximum age restrictions for veterans and provide funding for job training or retraining for veterans as a specific target group under the Job Training Partnership Act. (Adopted.)

No. 772 (Commander-in-Chief)—Residential Requirements for Appointment of State Directors of Veterans Employment Service

Disapproved.

No. 773 (Commander-in-Chief)—Oppose the Use of 4′ × 8′ Grave Sites in National Cemeteries

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek the immediate discontinuance of the use of 4′ × 8′ grave sites and the restoration of the 5′ × 10′ grave site in our national cemeteries. (Adopted.)

No. 774 (Commander-in-Chief)—Mortgage Insurance for 100% Service-Connected Disabled Veterans

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we seek the introduction and passage of legislation that will provide for relief from higher insurance premiums for mortgage life insurance for those veterans rated 100% permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disability. (Adopted.)

No. 775 (Commander-in-Chief)—Oppose the VA Policy Which Provides for the Executive Use of Flat Grave Markers

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the policy of providing flat grave markers exclusively be immediately discontinued and that all national cemeteries be apportioned, with due consideration to climate and regional preference, so that both upright and flat markers may be provided as dictated by the veteran's or his or her dependent's request; and

Be it further resolved, that all flat markers, currently employed in national cemeteries now be subject to the election of upright markers and that if such an election is made that it be implemented expeditiously and with no expense or inconvenience for the elector. (Adopted.)

No. 776 (Commander-in-Chief)—Herbicide Exposure

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we continue to endorse and support liberalizing criteria for proper disposition of herbicide related claims, to include placing the burden of proof for the award of disability compensation on the government rather than on the veterans. (Adopted.)

No. 777 (Commander-in-Chief)—Contracting Out of Services in Medical Activities of the Department of Medicine and Surgery

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we remain unalterably opposed to any efforts to implement the provisions of OMB Circular A-76 within the VA medical care system. (Adopted.)

No. 778 (Commander-in-Chief)—Geriatric and Extended Care

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that this program be adequately funded as soon as possible and appropriate geographic distribution of GRECCs be made. (Adopted.)

No. 779 (Commander-in-Chief)—Senate Reorganization

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States uses every resource at its disposal to ensure the continuation of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee as a separate standing committee of the Senate and that any Senate reorganization plan that would eliminate the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee be unalterably opposed. (Adopted.)

No. 780 (Commander-in-Chief)—Lobby Reform Legislation

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any lobby disclosure legislation which contains reporting criteria so stringent as to thwart lobbying activities at any level, or which might produce a chilling effect on First Amendment rights to petition the Congress of the United States; and

Be it further resolved, that we oppose any lobby reform legislation categorizing non-profit and charitable veterans such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as a "lobbying organization" when such activities constitute such a small portion of the operation of such organizations. (Adopted.)

No. 781 (Commander-in-Chief)—Opposition to S. 1440

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any efforts by the U.S. Congress to impose mandatory smoking restrictions in facilities of the armed forces or facilities that serve American veterans; and

Be it further resolved, that the House of Representatives and the United States Senate be advised of this position by the VFW. (Adopted.)

No. 782 (Department of California)—Veterans Entitlements Programs

Disapproved.

No. 783 (Department of California)—VA Medical Center Martinez New Facility Addition

Be it resolved, by the 86th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we use every resource at our disposal to ensure that the Veterans' Administration gives the VA Medical Center Martinez New Facility Addition their highest priority, with plans for immediate construction. (Adopted.)

REPORTS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

Report of Commander-in-Chief

Billy Ray Cameron

This past year has been another great one in the 86-year history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The successes we have recorded, including our 30th consecutive year of increased membership, were not achieved because you elected me your Commander-in-Chief, but because all of you dedicated and devoted members worked to help the VFW carry out this year's theme: First . . . Serving America.

At the end of 1984-85, the national organization reached its highest membership ever: 2,020,293 for a total 1984-85 gain of 20,144. As we said last year when we exceeded the two million-mark for the first time in VFW history, "Let's start working now for three million."

with people like all of you on the job, the VFW will hit that target, too, before very long.

For it is people like you whio have made this organization great and have kept it great since its inception back in 1899 when the veterans of the Spanish-American War came home with no benefits, only a few dollars in mustering out pay.

In these 86 years, the VFW has been able to accomplish much, and with the growing strength of membership, all of us will be able to do much more. As we all know, when you are dealing with the weilders of influence—from Congressmen to newspaper editors—numbers count. Regardless of how sympathetic these people may be, it is strength of numbers that ultimately counts.

It has been a long trip form Chicago to Dallas, but it was one with a lot of memorble and worthwhile stops along the way.

Of course, the best were those where I had a chance to meet you, comrades and sisters, and to share with you (and you with me) the hopes and dreams we all have for our organization.

In order to appraise the international situation, your chair officers were given a thorough briefing a few weeks after the Convention by top officials of the State and Defense Departments. Detailed for us were the world's trouble spots where freedom is threatened and where we focus our attention. These discussions proved most helpful as the year progressed.

One of the most inspiring events in which I particpated was the dedication of the statue of the Three Fightingmen at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington last Veterans Day. Thousands of Vietnam veterans made their way to the nation's capital just for the occasion. It was a most emotion-filled event. It was gratifying to see the many, many VFW caps and to note the large number of veterans of other wars who joined in.

This year of 1984-85 has been noteworthy for other things, too, all of them significant to veterans. Three stamps were issued paying tribute to veterans. The first honors Vietnam veterans. One of the other two honors Korean War veterans. The third was World War I veterans. The VFW, as the prime mover for the Korean stamp, coordinated its issuance ceremonies in Washington.

Anniversaries also were important this year. Unfortunately, the media spent a great deal of time—too much, some felt—covering the Communists' 10th anniversay of their victory in Vietnam. Then there was the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 35th of the outbreak of the Korean War. Memories were stirred, even those we thought had faded.

We in the VFW, it was certainly made clear to me this past year, have our work cut out for us in protecting the rights, entitlements and Veterans Administration programs all of us as veterans have earned and all of us as VFW members have worked to achieve.

Older veterans who lived during the Great Depression will recall that the few benefits veterans of that earlier period enjoyed came under severe attack. Then, as now, the cry was "economy," and veterans were made the whipping-boy. The national debt was remembered, but the nation's debt to veterans was forgotten.

In this current deficit crisis, we are being treated to a replay of this scenario of a half-century ago. All sorts of proposals have been presented. Ultimately, they would erode VA programs and make VA medical care virtually inaccessible to veterans who need it most. Other recommendations would contract out to private business a lot of the VA's functions. Then there was the attack on retention pay awarded military retires—always a popular and shallow headline-grabbing poly.

We are witnessing the preparation of two VA budgets, one by the House of Representatives and one by the Senate. Reconciling these two versions will require much work, and you may be certain our Washington Office will watch the action closely.

Four tragic events this year underscored the seriousness of the times in which we live and the dangers to Americans posed by this nation's enemies who are lurking everywhere. First was the coldblooded murder of the Army major by the Soviets. The second was the shocking revelation of a "family" spy ring inside the Navy. The third was the hijacking of the American passenger plane out of Athens by Arab gunmen who shot an American sailor after brutally beating him. The other passengers were freed after 17 harrowing days in Beirut. The hijacking was followed by the massacre of four Marines in a San Salvador cafe.

Of the many things I have learned this year, one that was indelibly etched on my consciousness was that there really is no generation gap in the VFW.

As the first Vietnam veteran elected Commander-in-Chief, I was overwhelmed by the goodwill extended to me by veterans who served in all our nation's wars. And I also realized, after meeting some who had served in Lebanon and Grenada, that Vietnam veterans no longer are the nation's youngest.

While the success we enjoyed this past year is due to the work all of you did, I must single out for special thanks for their counsel and guidance Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab, Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Quartermaster Gen. Herbert Irwin and Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office. Nor will now retired Quartermaster Gen. J. A. Cheatham be forgotten. The sound financial condition of the National Organization is due in no small measure to his stewardship.

Now, when this 86th National Convention is gavelled into history, let us all work to Reach for New Horizons.

Report of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

John S. Staum

I extend a sincere welcome to everyone attending this 86th National Convention.

This past year as your Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief has been another exciting and rewarding year. The year has passed by quickly and the experiences I have had traveling to the many states and meeting many comrades have again given me memories I will cherish as the years go by. Your hospitality and kindness to me have been something that is hard to describe.

My travels this year have taken me from coast to coast and overseas to Central America. While in Central America, I learned more about the high regard and respect the Veterans of Foreign Wars has in our embassies in foreign lands. At each stop, we met with ambassadors and high government and military and civilian officials. Each of them knew about our great organization and all the great work we do.

Travelling to the many States on the membership pickups and conferences, I have again seen what our Posts and Auxiliaries are doing in their various communities. The pride that our comrades and sisters show to me is highly evident as they guide me through their Post Homes.

Again I have listened to mayors, legislators and other elected officials praise the Veterans of Foreign Wars for all the efforts and work done on the local, state and national scenes.

I want to thank our hardworking Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron for all the good advice and friendship he has shown to me this past year. Also a thank you to our Junior-Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab for his friendship this past year. Both of these men helped make the job much easier.

To Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., and the entire Kansas City staff, a special thank you. Your advice and kindness to me have been so helpful in making the job much easier.

Our new Quartermaster Gen. Herb Irwin and our retired Quartermaster Gen. Al Cheatham have been once again so helpful this past year. A special thanks to each of you.

The Washington Office staff has once again worked so very hard this past year. Cooper T. Holt, our Executive Director, and his staff do a super job in keeping us informed about events and happenings in Washington, D.C. They expend a great amount of time and effort in furthering veterans' rights and other veterans' programs.

Again a special thank you to our Ladies Auxiliary. You do so much for our veterans. Keep up the great work you are doing.

I look forward again to serving you, the members, the real backbone of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. You, the members, are the men and women we depend upon to do the work. You, the members give us the inspiration we need each day. For it is you, the members, who keep the Veterans of Foreign Wars "First Serving America."

Report of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Norman G. Staab

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I write a brief yearly report as your Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. So many things need to be said, but I know this space cannot possibly give justice to their importance.

This year passed in what seemed such a short time, but it was filled with so many exciting events that it would normally take a lifetime to experience.

The fact that it really can happen is still one of the most rewarding aspects of this great organization. Working and being active in the organization for the past many years and constantly moving up a step at a time with setbacks on the way, one constantly strives for that ultimate goal: Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

In life, we all have certain priorities and goals we wish to achieve. With most of us the reason for meeting these goals are varied and many. Probably the foremost reason for me was the strong patriotic flavor we express. After serving overseas and experiencing firsthand what a government can do to take away the freedoms we enjoy in our country and we take for granted, we should feel it incumbent on us to do all we can to promote our way of life. The freedoms we enjoy need to be protected and defended at all costs.

When I first started to attend Post meetings, I was very impressed by what comrades of our organization did solely from the generosity of their hearts. These deeds were performed not only for the comrades, widows and orphans, but for the welfare of the general public.

I sincerely felt that we all need to contribute something of substance to our communities and the welfare of others less fortunate. I still feel this is most important. Then as now, I am of the opinion that using the VFW as the vehicle was the wisest of decisions.

The good works this organization has done in our country is incalculable. The many worthwhile programs we sponsor: Americanism, Community Activities, Safety, Youth Activities, Veterans Service, Veterans Administration Volunteer Service and many, many others. These individual programs in themselves would support just one specialized organization in any of these particular fields.

The number of people and communities we touch with our deeds is so enormous that it defies description. It is a testimony to the true American, one who loves his country and has served it during its greatest time of need, in defense during wartime. But above all this, it is a training course for all men and women who have a desire to learn, to serve, to lead and make a contribution from a most helpful and compassionate group. In this respect alone the organization has done more for me than I can possibly do for it.

The groundwork laid over many years in excellent leadership is without a doubt one of our greatest assets. Early on, it became immediately evident that the acceptance and respect of our organization are unquestionably among the highest in the country and in many places in the free world.

Traveling throughout our great country and visiting the many cities and communities were heart-warming experiences. From my first briefing in Washington, D.C., shortly after my election, with the Departments of State and Defense, the Veterans Administration and the Pentagon to the later visits to France, Egypt, Israel and Italy, I found it obvious that we have a great mutual need of each other's talents and our advice and assistance are sought and needed.

My appreciation of our organization became ever greater as time went on. The numerous services we conduct nationwide testify to the voids we are filling to make our country a better place to live in.

We have been blessed with very competent leadership. It has been a genuine pleasure to serve with our Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, our first Vietnam Era Commander. He is widely respected and has truly made an impact on our growth and progress. Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Staum has been a pleasure to serve with. It will be a real satisfying feeling to have a leader with his competence at the helm next year. The National Headquarters in Kansas City and our Washington, D.C., Office have been of the greatest assistance, always ready to help with advice or any other needs in the many programs we pursue.

I want to thank all the Department Commanders and their officers for their respect, assistance and understanding during my visits in their Departments the past year and for the many hours on the road, away from your families for the betterment of our organization.

It has been a wonderful experience and you can be assured that I went anywhere and did all I was asked to do in the pursuit of our many goals. I am ready to continue serving you and look forward to receiving your dedicated support.

Report of Adjutant General

HOWARD E. VANDER CLUTE, JR.

The great traditions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are manifested in its established record of service to veterans and their families and in our country. With such a heritage, it is understandable that our ranks continue to grow in number in spite of the declining veteran population.

As we conclude this, our 86th year of existence, we attain another significant milestone . . . our 30th consecutive year of membership gain. It is certainly rewarding to consider in retrospect the programs, events, issues and decisions that have contributed so dramatically to our sustained success.

Our staffs, in Kansas City and Washington, have the responsibility of reviewing, then preparing, with our National Officers, Committee Chairmen and National Headquarters Staff, the programs for the coming year. Once our national programs are established, our main task at National Headquarters becomes the dissemination and promotion of these programs among our Departments, Districts, County Councils and Posts.

While we recognize the fact that the National Officers and the National Staff can only set in motion our many worthy projects, it is the dedicated working members at the various levels of our organization who carry them out so successfully. We here at National Headquarters are extremely grateful for the manner in which our many program goals are achieved in the field.

In accomplishing this growth in membership and all the Veterans of Foreign Wars has accomplished over the past 86 years, it is obvious that our organization has been blessed with dynamic leadership. That leadership has been demonstrated once again in the past year under Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron. His leadership has been undergirded in word and deed by two proven officers, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.

Our staff in Kansas City, in addition to monitoring its own programs, is constantly developing and implementing new programs, as suggested by grass roots members of our organization or from National Convention Resolutions.

Usefulness and acceptability are among the priorities considered when designing formats for such programs. Our staff continuously strives to be more responsive toward maintaining that objective.

The industry of our directors, technicians and secretarial staff has been supported adequately by state-of-the-art computers, word processing equipment and by contracting with professional marketing and mass-mailing firms.

Establishing a productive membership marketing strategy is vital to maintaining our incredible rate of growth—30 consecutive years unparalleled by any other service, civic or fraternal organization in the United States. That strategy must feature an expanded member benefit program as well as an aggressive new Post program. To that end, we are refining our "Shotgun" mass-mailing method and expanding it to include a special approach for established Posts. Other veterans' organizations, in their haste to recover from declining membership rolls, have experimented with mass-mail appeals that have not successfully insured eligible member recruitment. We cannot, by the very verbiage of our Constitution, engage in any recruiting program that does not provide, by some means, for certification of documented eligibility of all members, lest we totally squander our integrity and credibility.

In this annual report to you, I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to our recently retired Quartermaster General, J. A. (Al) Cheatham, for his 40 years of faithful and conscientious service to our organization. His personal implementation of sound fiscal policies, along with his financial insight, has provided for the solvency and the continuing appreciation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The sound financial management and solid economic stability are certain to continue with the recent election of Herb Irwin as Quartermaster General. The smooth transition that transpired during the change of responsibility of this high office is due to the expertise and professionalism of both Al and Herb, along with their keenly trained staff.

The administrative year of 1984-85 has been enhanced by an extremely energetic and thoughtful National Council of Administration. Regional Council Members have been very supportive of the Commander-in-Chief during this past year in responding to his request to assist actively in promoting the Membership Program in the Departments they represent. Their devotion to duty has manifested itself in our 30th consecutive year of growth.

Our Washington Office continues to perform effectively in the pursuit of legislative and national security objectives under the highly capable direction of Cooper T. Holt and his knowledgeable staff.

All of us at National Headquarters would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Department Adjutants and Quartermasters. Their diligence, loyalty and performance continue to provide great stability for the organization.

This past year has been an exciting and productive one. It has been made so because of the tireless and inspiring leadership of our Commander-in-Chief and the invaluable assistance provided by his staff and you, the shareholders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Report of Quartermaster General

Herbert W. Irwin

At the beginning of this fiscal year, the Quartermaster General submitted a tentative balanced budget to the Commander-in-Chief and the National Budget and Finance Committee. After some revision by the Committee and by the National Council of Administration, the budget was approved on October 1, 1984. A summary follows:

Estimated income for the year ended August 31, 1985:	
Membership Dues	$8,719,224
VFW Magazine Receipts	1,934,000
Property Operation Net	(400,000)
Buddy Poppy Sales-Net Income	220,000
Supply Department-Net Income	855,000
Interest on Investments	1,200,000
Insurance	3,500,000
Outside Addressing and D.P. Rentals	40,000
Ladies Auxiliary Contribution	140,000
Miscellaneous	110,000
Total estimated income	16,318,224
Budgeted expenses for the year:	
National Headquarters Fund	7,117,014
National Publication Fund	4,698,998
Community and Veterans Service Fund	3,246,084
Reserve for future operations	1,100,000
Total budgeted expenses	16,162,096
Estimated surplus	156,128

In addition, $2,926,015 is budgeted as the portion of 1985 dues applicable to the 1985–86 fiscal year, and $5,000,000 is budgeted for collection of restricted Life Membership fees. Pursuant to the National By-Laws, these funds are not available for operation of the 1984–85 fiscal year.

CHANGE IN FINANCIAL REPORT PRESENTATION

Since the inception of the very first group insurance program in 1962, the revenues of the National Insurance Programs have always been used or set aside for the Community Service Activities, Veterans Services and the National Security and Foreign Affairs Activities of the Organization. Whatever remaining funds were necessary for those activities came from the National Headquarters Fund. Effective September 1, 1982, the Organization began accounting for the net revenues of the Insurance Programs and the Poppy Department, and expenses of the Community and Veterans Service Programs, in a new separate fund known as the Community and Veterans Service Fund. This change in presentation has been made to more effectively present the long standing commitment of our Organization to those activities.

If you will refer to the Auditors' Opinion on our financial statements, which appear elsewhere in this report, you will see that the auditors concur with the new presentation.

AUDIT REPORT

The financial statements for the nine months ended May 31, 1985 and the Auditors' Opinion relating thereto, are presented as a part of this report. Audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 1985, will be mailed to the National Council of Administration and the Department Commanders as soon as they are available.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

(Chartered By An Act Of Congress)

Office of the Quartermaster General

BALANCE SHEET, MAY 31, 1985

	National headquarters and national publication funds	Community and veterans' service fund	Kansas City properties maintenance and improvements fund	Life membership fund
Assets:				
Cash and temporary cash investments	$5,221,591	$2,240,283	$200,000	
Securities held and managed by Trustee—at cost (Market value—$14,980,753 for National Headquarters and National Publication Funds and $64,530,182 for Life Membership Fund)	14,000,000			$59,783,259
Receivables	142,918	600,069		
Accrued interest receivable on cash and securities held by Trustee	479,319			1,750,114
Due from National Headquarters Fund		5,257,454		169,265
Inventories	912,404	255,580		
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment (less accumulated depreciation--$1,160,988)	1,066,627			
National Headquarters property—Kansas City, Missouri:				
Land	1,023,703			
Buildings and improvements (less accumulated depreciation—$1,646,363)	1,951,656			
Other improvements—unamortized portion	1,403,672			

BALANCE SHEET, MAY 31, 1985—Continued

	National headquarters and national publication funds	Community and veterans' service fund	Kansas City properties maintenance and improvements fund	Life membership fund
National Memorial Building property—Washington, D.C—Land, building, and improvements	1,948,998			
Prepaid and deferred charges	349,408	4,862		
Total	28,500,296	8,358,248	200,000	61,702,638
Liabilities and fund balances:				
Accounts payable	487,902	4,897,532		
Accrued liabilities	37,306			
Other liabilities	548,701	861,895		
Due to Community and Veterans Service Fund	5,257,454			
Due to Life Membership Fund	169,265			
Deferred credits:				
National dues allocable to subsequent periods	5,096,861			
Insurance programs		464,358		
Fund balances	16,902,807	2,134,463	200,000	61,702,638
Total	28,500,296	8,358,248	200,000	61,702,638

See the notes to financial statements

AUDITORS' OPINION

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States:

We have examined the balance sheet of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States—Office of the Quartermaster General as of May 31, 1985 and the related summary of income and changes in fund balances and summary of expenses for the nine months then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States—Office of the Quartermaster General at May 31, 1985, and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the nine months then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

Kansas City, Missouri, June 21, 1985.

Summary of Income and Changes in Fund Balances for the Nine Months Ended May 31, 1985

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND NATIONAL PUBLICATION FUNDS

Income:	
National dues	$6,507,562
Contributions from VFW Ladies Auxiliary	140,000

VFW Magazine advertising	1,420,623
Supply Department—net income	611,847
Property Operations—net (loss)	(281,563)
Interest earned	1,609,889
Other	89,946
Total income	10,098,304
Expenses (see Summary)	8,348,135
Income before other credits	1,750,169
Other credits: Net recoveries applicable to prior periods	25,677
Net Income	1,775,846
Fund Balances, September 1, 1984	15,126,961
Fund Balances, May 31, 1985	16,902,807

SPECIAL FUNDS

COMMUNITY AND VETERANS SERVICE FUND:

Income:	
National Insurance Programs	3,439,118
Poppy Department operations	253,169
Miscellaneous	3,783
Total	3,696,070
Expenses:	
Community and Veterans Service Programs (see Summary)	1,519,339
Allocation of National Headquarters Fund an National Publication Fund expenses	891,426
Total	2,410,765
Increase in Fund Balance	1,285,305
Fund Balance, September 1, 1984	849,158
Fund balance, May 31, 1985	2,134,463

Kansas City properties maintenance and improvements fund:

Fund Balance, September 1, 1984 and May 31, 1985	200,000

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:

Receipts:	
Life membership fees	4,045,834
Interest and dividends on investments	5,286,730
Total	9,332,564
Expenses:	
1985 annual dues of life members	5,614,160
Administrative expenses	110,182
Trustee's charges	26,554
Total	5,750,896
Increase in Fund Balance	3,581,668
Fund Balance, September 1, 1984	58,120,970
Fund balance, May 31, 1985	61,702,638

See notes to financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Summary of significant accounting policies.—This Organization follows the practice of fund accounting. Under this procedure, transactions and balances for various purposes are classified into fund groupings that are in accordance with specific activities or objectives as follows:

a. The National Headquarters and National Publication Funds are resources of the organization that provide the funds necessary to operate the Organization and publish the VFW Magazine.

b. The Community and Veterans Service Fund consists of net revenues of the National Insurance Programs and the Poppy Department and expenses of the Organization's various community and veteran service activities. Net revenues of the Natonal Insurance Programs not expended or set aside for activities and veteran service programs would be subject to Federal and state income taxes.

c. The Kansas City Properties Maintenance and Improvements Fund was established by the 55th National Convention and is to be used for maintenance, repair, preservation, and improvement of the Kansas City properties of the Organization.

d. The Life Membership Fund includes the investment income and unexpended fees received from the life members of the Organization. All life member fees and all income earned from the investment of such fees are to be solely for the payment of the specified annual National Headquarters, Department, and Post dues of life members and the administrative expenses of the Fund.

Inventories are valued at average cost.

Property is valued at cost. The National Memorial Building is not depreciated; all other property is depreciated over the estimated useful life of the asset, using the straight-line method. The provision for depreciation and amortization for the nine months ended May 31, 1985 was $346,340.

The major portion of the Organization's income is derived from annual dues paid by its members. Annual dues are collected on a calendar year basis and are reflected in income ratably over the year. Unearned portions of dues are deferred. The fiscal year of the Organization ends August 31.

2. Retirement Plan.—The National Organization has a non-contributory retirement plan covering substantially all of its employees who are qualified as to age and length of service. The Organization's policy is to fund pension cost accrued; the contribution charged to expense during the nine months ended May 31, 1985 was $250,000. Employees of several VFW State Departments and the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW also participate in the plan. At September 1, 1984, the VFW's portion of net assets available for benefits and the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits totaled $6,129,038 and $3,737,652, respectively. The assumed rate of return used in determining the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits was 8%.

3. Political Action Committee (PAC).—Delegates to the 80th National Convention established the Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee. Contributions from Posts and Auxiliaries from inception to May 31, 1985 for payment of administrative expenses of the PAC totaled $245,627. Unreimbursed expenditures for administrative expenses from inception to May 31, 1985 totaled $239,396. The unexpended balance of $6,231 is included in other liabilities of the National Headquarters Fund. Contributions from individuals are recorded in the records of the PAC, rather than the records of the Office of the Quartermaster General.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND NATIONAL PUBLICATION FUNDS

National Headquarters:	
Commander-in-Chief and staff officers	$320,948
National Council of Administration	79,576
Congressional dinner	43,716
Department Adjutant and Quartermaster Conference—K.C	46,328
Department Commanders Conference—D.C	51,039
Department Senior Vice-Commanders Conference—K.C	39,084
Department convention travel	4,649
Standing committees	13,323
Special events	69,196
Special travel and projects	31,566
Musical activities	8,667
Dedication of Vietnam Veterans Memorial	10,000
Inauguration expense—Medal of Honor Dinner	26,679
Adjutant General's Department	360,748
Administrative Services—Adjutant General's Department	73,342
Post services	55,865
National Convention Director	45,547
Public Relations and Press Service	170,019
Membership Program	972,272
Post Development	219,636

National Headquarters—General Services	262,348
Washington Office—Administrative expense	215,256
Public Relations—Washington Office	66,190
National Legislative Service	162,031
Quartermaster General's Department	331,697
Property Management—Kansas City	62,749
Purchasing and Life Membership	38,456
Maintenance expense—National Headquarters	30,437
General expense—National Headquarters	475,932
Membership Reporting—Allocation of IBM expenses	157,071
Dues receipts and tax forms	97,393
Contingent expense	47,418
Retirement plan	250,000
Pre-retirement insurance	22,500
Retirement administrative expense	93,750
Employee Group Life and Disability Insurance	43,500
Employee Medical Insurance	204,601
401-K Plan—employer contribution	27,058
Other expenses	109,324
Expense allocation to the Community and Veterans Service Fund	−664,769
Subtotal	4,675,142
National Publication:	
Editorial	191,106
Circulation—Allocation of IBM expenses	166,640
Advertising promotion expense	5,840
Publication expense	3,536,064
Expense allocation to Community and Veterans Service Fund	−226,675
Subtotal	3,672,993
Total	8,348,135

COMMUNITY AND VETERANS SERVICE FUND

Community Service Programs:	
Voice of Democracy and Youth Activities Program	254,697
Americanism Program	93,455
Community Activities Program	49,684
Safety Program	50,128
National Security and Foreign Affairs	104,300
Total	552,264
Veterans Service Programs:	
Veterans Service Committee	2,558
Washington, D.C. Office	484,424
Payroll taxes	48,490
Service Officer Training Program	107,835
Service Officer's Conference—D.C.	2,668
Contigent expenses	7,285
Field Representatives	151,137
Subsidies—regional offices	135,222
Veterans Civil Service and Employment Program	27,456
Subtotal	967,075
Total	1,519,339

See the notes to financial statements.

85th National Convention Committee Report

NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

A special committee was set up to run the VFW 85th National Convention which was held in Chicago, Illinois. A summary of receipts and disbursements follows:

Cash Receipts:	
Registration	$79,508.00
Chicago Convention Bureau	35,000.00
Distinguished Guest Banquet	46,740.00
Awards Luncheon	26,635.00
Pageant of Drums	8,086.81
National Auxiliary Convention Committee	26,000.00
Advance from National Headquarters	10,000.00
Concessions and Miscellaneous	10,118.71
Total Cash Receipts	242,088.52
Cash Disbursements:	
Registration Expense	2,672.56
Distinguished Guests Reception and Banquet	55,950.28
Distinguished Guests and National Officers Expense	20,554.71
Awards Luncheon	25,312.50
Pageant of Drums Expenses	671.89
Convention Committee and Board of Director's Expense	10,833.23
National Convention Director's Expense	6,299.00
Secretarial Assistance	7,684.94
Expense for Official Cars	1,815.02
Security Police	2,032.50
Parade	1,056.55
Memorial Service	562.00
Meeting Halls	36,783.54
Badges	16,170.22
Postage	2,430.79
Telephone and Telegraph	2,257.04
Printing	2,433.02
Rental of Office Equipment and Supplies	8,555.69
Transportation and Trucking	9,268.93
Returned to National Headquarters	25,562.42
Miscellaneous	3,181.69
Total Cash Disbursements	242,088.52

SOURCE OF REVENUE

Budgeted income for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1985, is $16,318,224 compared to $15,153,762 for the previous year. The following schedule shows the proportionate composition of budgeted revenue for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1985.

	Percentage of total revenue
Dues	53.43
VFW Magazine Receipts	11.85
Property Operation-Net Loss	2.45
Buddy Poppy Sale-Net	1.35
Supply Department-Net	5.24
Interest on Investments	7.35
Insurance Programs	21.45
Other (Including Contributions)	1.78
Total	100.00

MEMBERSHIP AND NATIONAL DUES

The current budget is based on dues income of 2,000,000 members. As of July 9, 1985, annual dues have been paid on 2,020,293 members which is 22,075 more than at the same date last year and the highest in the Organization's eighty-six year history. The 1985 membership includes 464,910 life members. Dues are paid on a calendar year basis; therefore, one-third of the dues collected is set aside in a reserve applicable to the next fiscal year.

VFW INSURANCE PROGRAMS

The National Organization first sponsored a group insurance program in 1962. Over the years we have added a variety of programs, and at the present time we have seven. The most recent addition, is an accidental death and dismemberment insurance program available to members on an individual basis. It provides, depending upon the member's age, up to $1,000 of accidental death and dismemberment insurance at no cost to the member, and in addition, the option for a member on an individual basis to obtain additional coverage up to $50,000. This newest program has been announced in the dues notice mailings each of the past three years and also in mailings made to Life Members. Details of this and other insurance programs appear elsewhere in this official program.

The National Organization receives an administrative expense reimbursement for handling the billing, collection of premiums, policy issuance, etc. For the current nine months ended May 31, 1985, the net income from this source is $3,439,118, compared to $1,959,886 for the same period last year. In addition, the administrative expense reimbursement from the life insurance program, which is not included in the above figures, is distributed to VFW Departments.

Since 1971, VFW Departments have received $2,017,642 for the assistance which they give us in the advertising and promotion of that program.

For a number of years the insurance was underwritten by Insurance Company of North America. Beginning in June of 1983, the underwriting was transferred to a new company—The American International Group. The new company has proven its expertise in the field of mass marketing. In addition, the new company has increased our reimbursement for administration of the programs. As a result of these two factors, our annual net income from the insurance programs will have more than tripled in just two years with the new underwriter. The rates and benefits for our insured VFW members with the new company are identical to those with the old company. In addition, we have negotiated a three-year rate guarantee of the present rates beginning on the date that American International Group assumed coverage under each program.

The reception of the brand new accidental death program has been very good because the first $1,000 of coverage is at no cost to the member, and requires only that he send in a beneficiary card which has been provided to him in the dues notice mailing. This new program has been a valuable addition to our membership program as well. Each of the other programs has been well received over the years, and they all offer a very valuable incentive for belonging to the Organization.

MEMBER BENEFIT PROGRAMS

We have attempted to design a member benefit program for our members, and all of these programs—including the insurance programs previously mentioned, are optional with the member and cost him nothing unless he elects to use them. In the spring of 1982 we announced a prescription drug program. Some of our members who do not otherwise have access to a discount source for prescription drugs have found this program very useful. In 1983 we announced a travel service (hotels, motels, rental cars, etc.) and a discount merchandise purchase service.

Details of our insurance programs, and these additional member benefits, have been included in a "Member Benefit Handbook" which has been mailed to all members during the period June–July 1985.

Again, our insurance and other member benefit programs are available to our members at what we believe is a fair cost, but costs the member nothing unless, at his option, he wishes to utilize them.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

From the inception of the program in 1950 through May 31, 1985, 545,295 members purchased a life membership. During the same period 78,307 became inactive due to death, etc., leaving 466,988 names on the active list.

During this past year, 43,072 members paid $5,536,081 to become Life Members.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND, MAY 31, 1985

Fees Collected Jan. 1, 1951 to May 31, 1985	$59,827,275
Total dues paid Post, Department and National	33,704,897

Add—Administrative Expenses since 1-1-51	1,589,932
	35,295,829
Less—Income from Investments (Incl. gains and losses from sale of securities)	33,419,466
Excess of Disbursements over Income	1,875,363
Reserve for Future Dues Payments and Expenses	61,702,638
Total Investments in Trust Funds	59,783,259
Temporary Investments and Cash on Hand	1,919,379
Total Investments and Cash	61,702,638

Life Member fees have been set actuarially so that the fee life member applicants pay, plus the investment income from it, will equal the VFW dues for the life of the Life Member. Since the Life Member Program began, we have had three separate plans, Plan A, B, & C. Each Plan had a different fee schedule with a different dues payout. The sole purpose in changing plans was to bring the dues payout more in line with the dues structure for annual members.

Because investment income in the last several years has substantially exceeded that which was originally assumed when the fees were set, The Board of Trustees has been able to increase the Life Member dues payout three of the last five years. It must be remembered, however, that the Board has the right to reduce the payout to that originally set in the By-Laws, should it become necessary because of financial and economic conditions.

For the 1986 dues payment, the dues payout will remain the same at $12.00 on each Life Member. After the 1986 payment, an additional $7,148,000 will have been paid to Posts, Department and National Headquarters since 1982, over the required amount.

All levels of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have benefited from the well managed and financially sound Life Membership Trust. Not only has the total number of Life Members increased substantially over the past few years, but the financial condition of each Post, Department and National has been helped by the increased payouts.

VFW EMBLEM AND SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

	Nine months ending May 31.			
	1985	1984	1983	1982
Net Sales	$2,952,720	$2,882,822	$2,753,333	$2,620,363
Cost of Sales	1,703,356	1,624,352	1,658,365	1,531,767
Gross Profit	1,249,364	1,258,470	1,094,968	1,088,596
Expenses:				
Salaries	203,306	193,500	176,435	161,173
Advertising	4,268	3,863	3,289	5,282
Catalog Expense	57,178	50,453	37,570	33,516
Postage	133,936	131,204	133,948	121,218
Rent	54,000	54,000	49,500	49,500
Data Processing Expense Allocation	49,467	57,826	59,419	60,560
Other	66,379	66,117	40,644	50,856
Total Expense	569,534	556,963	500,805	482,105
Net Income Before Commissions	679,830	701,507	594,163	606,491
Less Commissions to State Departments	67,983	70,151	59,416	60,649
Net Income	611,847	631,356	534,747	545,842

Section 715 of the By-Laws states that 10% of the net profits of supplies sold within a department shall be paid to such departments within thirty days following the close of each fiscal period. The Quartermaster General will be mailing these payments to the departments in September. The 1986 Supply Catalog will be mailed to Posts and Departments later this month.

SUMMARY OF QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

Last October, the National Council of Administration approved the largest income and expense budget in the history of our Organization. Our budget continues to increase for two reasons—an increase in the services which we provide to all levels of the Organization, and the effect of inflation on our costs. Since the largest part of our income is from membership dues, we are like a retired person on a fixed income. Expenses for travel, postage, and our many other activities continue to rise. Even though we now only print 11 issues of the VFW Magazine, it alone represents nearly one-third of our total outlay. Many of the costs of printing the magazine, including postage and paper, are not within our own control. While inflation has somewhat abated, it has had a tremendous effect on us over the years.

Cost increases over the past years have generally caused a dues increase every four years. If we do not have a dues increase at the 1985 convention (and none is being proposed) then next year will be our eighth year without a dues increase. Since our last dues increase of $1.00 amounted to about 28 percent, this means that over the eight-year period the increase amounted to under 4 percent a year. By prudent management of our income and our expense we have remained well below the inflation rate for the period.

Our financial statements as of May 31, 1985, indicate that we are having a good year. The August 31 surplus cannot be predicted, but is generally more than that of May 31 of each year. One of the biggest uncertainties is the cost of the National Convention, which will be enormous by any standard. We have had a surplus every year since 1962, and we do not believe that this year will be an exception.

On March 31, 1985, J.A. "Al" Cheatham retired after serving 23 years as Quartermaster General and over 40 years as a dedicated employee at VFW National Headquarters. The wise and prudent manner in which he handled the finances of the Organization over those years is reflected in our sound financial structure today. I would like to thank him for all that he has done for me, and also express my admiration for all that he has and continues to accomplish, for our Organization.

I would also like to express my thanks to the National Officers, the members of the National Council of Administration and the Budget Committee who have contributed substantially to making 1984-85 a very fine year.

I hope that this report gives you some indication of the financial stability of your VFW National Headquarters. A solid financial base is essential to support our VFW goals which are common to units at all levels of our Organization. While there are many other things to be done, I urge you to pay attention to the finances of your particular unit and leave it in better shape than when you came on board.

Report of Judge Advocate General

THOMAS A. POULIOT

It seems like only yesterday that I was thanking each of you for electing me Judge Advocate General, and today I am writing this last letter of my term. The time has slipped by too quickly, but I have many wonderful memories remaining of you—a lifetime of memories. Memories of your dedication, your friendship, your support. My task this year was made much easier becasue of you.

I do not know where to start to thank all the people that have helped me this year. All of you in this great veterans' organization shared your knowledge and information with me during the learning process of the many phases of responsibility of my office. It was very gratifying to know that to accomplish, I had only to ask and help was there. One man can be elected to an office, but no one man can do the job alone. Thank You!

We have worked as a team this year—the Washington Office, the Kansas City Office, National Headquarters, the National officers, National staff, and Department officers. The team was dedicated to the the same goal: the welfare of America and its veterans, widows, and orphans. Comrades, we can be proud of our Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron. Through his leadership and inspiration, he has given us another successful year. It has been an honor and a pleasure serving on your team.

I wish to thank John S. Staum and Norman G. Staab for the help they have given me this year. These leaders will continue the progress the Veterans of Foreign Wars has always enjoyed. I especially would like to thank Al Cheatham for the privilege of working with, and getting to know him this year. Good luck, Al, and may all your days bring you pleasure. Thank you, Jack, Willy and Walt.

During my travels around the Departments, I made many friends. Every place I have been, the hospitality and the comradeship have been overwhelming—especially the hospitality of my Hawaiian friends. Comrades and sisters, you are a wonderful group of people to work with, to travel with and to share memories with. I would like to thank each of you for making my visits to your Departments so truly enjoyable.

To the newly-elected officers and Council members, I pledge my support and assistance. If I can ever be of any assistance to any of you, do not hesitate to call on me. I will continue to strive diligently to further the ideals and objectives of the organization. Good luck, and have a successful 1985–1986 year.

I promised you, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and our Ladies Auxiliary, to serve as Judge Advocate General with the dignity the office commands. I feel I have lived up to that promise. I will always be thankful to you for allowing me the privilege of serving. It has been a year I shall never forget.

Until we meet again, God be with each one of you.

Report of the Surgeon General

DR. RAYMOND W. SCHLUETER

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to members of the VFW for your confidence in electing me as your National Surgeon General during the past year. I recognize the honor which this National Office bestows and the privilege to serve this great veterans' organization which it grants. This has given me the opportunity to work with and to observe the other members of our National Council of Administration, headed by our respected Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, and assisted by your Senior Vice Commander, John S. Staum, and the Junior Vice Commander, Norman G. Staab.

The National Council is assisted, advised and supported by the dedicated staffs of the Kansas City and Washington offices. Those staffs assure a continuity and smoothness of functional effort for which this organization should be justifiably proud. Talented core members of the staff include Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., Quartermaster Gen. Herbert Irwin and Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt. All must be mentioned along with numerous other chairmen and directors who make the programs of this great organization possible.

One year is precious little time for a neophyte National Officer to make a significant contribution to the goals and programs of our organization. The wishes of our Commander-in-Chief, time constraints of the physician's practice and budgetary restrictions dictate that most Surgeons General devote their efforts chiefly to their home state areas. I have visited all the six veterans' hospital facilities within my home state of Illinois. During those visits, I met with medical center directors, chiefs of staff and other directors of services. In addition, in an effort to broaden my perspective and to minimize expenses to our organizaton, I used other non-VFW professional trips as a springboard to visit additional medical centers out-of-state in Dayton, Ohio, and in Salt Lake City, Utah.

I have found the personnel of those centers dedicated to quality care to veterans. Problems do exist in numerous locations and require the constant vigilance of our organization's oversight in a continuing effort to improve service to our veterans.

Prior to my election, I served as the medical contact office at the National Convention held in Chicago in August, 1984. During my term in office, I have attended and/or represented the National Office at numerous functions. These have included the National Commander's Homecoming Celebration in Greensboro, N.C., in September, 1984; the Illinois State Commanders' kick off dinner in September, 1984; the National Council Meeting in Kansas City in October, 1984; the Big Ten Conference Meeting in October, 1984; the Annual Pheasant Dinner celebration in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, Minn., in October, 1984; State of Illinois Council of Administration meeting in Moline in October, 1984; State of Illinois Council meeting in Springfield in February of 1985; National Surgeon General's Post Homecoming Banquet in February, 1985; Washington Conference in March, 1985; Commander's trip to Hawaii in May, 1985, and the Illinois State Convention in June, 1985. I have also visited various Posts on a courtesy basis in Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. I intend to fulfill any other assignments requested by our Commander-in-Chief during the remaining months in the office of Surgeon General, completing my obligations during this August, 1985, National convention in Dallas, Texas.

I look back with pride on the office which I was privileged to represent, but with some measure of regret that more could not have been accomplished. I would volunteer some comments that might serve to make the office of Surgeon General more meaningful in the future. This is dictated by the paramount importance of health care issues to our veterans. Budgeting for the office of Surgeon General should be enhanced to enable visitations to medical centers out of the surgeon's home state. Surgeons General are drawn from the ranks of State Surgeons General and in that latter capacity they are already familiar with centers in their home states. The appearance of the Surgeon General at the Washington Conference serves chiefly as a showpiece and political opportunity for our elected representatives to recognize their constituents. Numerous other more meaningful opportunities exist during the frequent appearances of our legislative service representatives before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs discussing pending veterans' health care legislation. I have noticed in statments from the office of the Director of our Washington office that a VFW medical consultant other than the Surgeon General is mentioned but not present at those Senate hearings. Having a physician professional present at those hearings might have a more favorable impact on our Senators.

Could not the Surgeon General be utilized in factfinding tours studying approaches to veterans' health care problems by our NATO allies in Europe, in Central America, or in the Far East, similar to those tours made by other National Officers.

Perhaps the office of the Suregon General could be expanded into a two-year term with the addition of a Vice Surgeon General or Surgeon General-elect position. This would spread the responsibility, lengthen the training or development period and create a pool of more knowledgeable previous Surgeons General from whom expertise could be drawn, thereby increasing the value of this important office to our organization. Improved levels of funding might attract senior or retired members of the medical profession possessing necessary membership credentials and the time to devote to the office. I hope that the previous suggestions are viewed in their intended purpose of developing the largely unrealized potential of a vital national office.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the VFW as a National Officer, may the organization continue to gain in strength and in the achievements of and worthwhile goals of its worthwhile goals for veterans.

Report of National Chaplain

REV. FREDERICK W. CHRISTIANSEN

Many fine things have happened to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States during this past year and you will read about many of them in the reports of the various officers and department directors. My facet of this team effort has been the national chaplaincy. I often think of a flight of wild geese and their raucous, resonant sound characteristic of them as they follow their flight pattern. But of late, I have thought of the lone goose who has not been careful in observing the larger number and their takeoff after resting and feeding. I have thought: Poor goose left behind who will lose her way and be unable to survive by herself. But then I hope the lonely goose will suddenly lift off, find the flock still visible and be part of the flock again.

It was a great privilege to be elected National Chaplain at the Convention at a time when the VFW reached 2,000,000 members for the first time. I always knew we needed a large membership to be a force and power for the veterans' cause, but after last year, I am more convinced than ever. We are like the flock of geese staying together and we need to gather the lonely, isolated veteran who can do little by himself. I am happy that so many have joined our ranks and I hope there will be another National Chaplain in the future who will be equally proud to serve when another membership milestone is reached. The veterans' cause is more threatened today than in a long while, so we need numerical as well as other strengths.

It is also a great privilege and distinction to serve the organization in a year that had the first Vietnam veteran as its Commander-in-Chief. It has been a great year under Billy Ray's leadership. I wish it were possible to mention all those who helped me have a challenging and thrilling year in the National Chaplain's post, but, like Oscar winners, as far as time goes, we are limited in our message space. But I must thank Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., from my home Department of New Jersey, for all his help and guidance and friendship. He gave abundantly of his friendship and always responded to any need I had. I have nothing but the warmest regard and praise for all the others on the National Conference and Department levels as well as all those friends at the grass roots who gave me great support.

I have come to know as never before the breadth and depth and height of our great organization along with its fine Ladies Auxiliary. The VFW voice is a strong and powerful one because it has always been fair, honest, caring, compassionate and patriotic. In addition, it must always be vigilant because there are those forces which would unashamedly weaken the government's duty and responsibility to the veteran, his widow and orphans.

Service at the National level is a great experience. Every member should attend at least one National Convention and more if possible, because you cannot really describe the scope of this representative and democratic gathering unless you are there in person. You can read about it, but there is a warmth, a spirit, a comradeship, an outreach, a pride, a thrill, a hope, all of which have to be experienced. A great meal cannot be completely understood until eaten. A great gathering, with its carefuly planned and balanced agenda, must be savored in person. The Washington Conference is another great gathering with its VOD winners and the excitement and anticipation they generate. I shall never forget giving the invocation on Veterans Day at the Arlington National Cemetery amphitheater nor can I ever ease the privileges of attending ceremonies on the USS Arizona Memorial or at the Punch Bowl National Cemetery. Visits to National Headquarters in Kansas City and also the Washington Office, with its most impressive foyer, are all memorable. The weekend in Wisconsin at Post 1865 in Kenosha will always remind me of the spirit of joyous hospitality motivating veterans across the land and far beyond.

The printed material from Kansas City and from Washington requires much time to read and more time to digest, but it is a great source of stimulating information, motivation and guidance which I have appreciated. I have noted on many occasions that the Post Chaplain is an untapped source of helpfulness in time of need and therefore he should be used and selected with care and with suitable abilities considered.

One thing impresses me more and more. Ours is a great organization with a great spirit, but so many of our veterans do not understand it and really know its scope. We are unaware of its many areas of service, its vital legislative activity, its help to the individual veteran in his many and varied needs. VFW Magazine is an ambassador for disseminating information and capturing the vitality of the organization on its various levels. This magazine is doing a better job now than ever before.

The highlight of this past year has been the opportunity to be the spiritual leader in fact as well as in name and to have fellowship with other chaplains. In my capacity as a soon-to-be past National Chaplian, I shall daily remember the VFW and all the veterans it serves and will serve in prayers to Almighty God. And now my thanks to all those who invited me to share in their special observances. God bless all of you and our Veterans of Foreign Wars at every level.

Report of Chief of Staff

Larry W. Rivers

At the conclusion of the 85th National Convention last year in Chicago, I was honored by Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron with appointments as Chief of Staff.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Commander-in-Chief Cameron in this capacity. Throughout 1984-85 I have endeavored to discharge my responsibilities in a manner commensurate with the overall high quality of VFW performance.

My sincere appreciation for their splendid cooperation goes to Commander-in-Chief Cameron, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab, Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Quartermaster Gen. Herbert Irwin, now retired Quartermaster Gen. J. A. Cheatham, Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, and their staffs.

Throughout the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Department Commanders, Chiefs of Staff and Deputy Chiefs of Staff have done an extremely fine job of insitituting new Posts this year.

At the end of May 28, Departments had reached their New Post Goal and 42 Departments had developed from one to 25 new Posts. The total of new Posts this year is 255, a figure that is higher than the yearly average of 220 since the program was established in 1965-66.

This is a most gratifying set of figures, and they indicate, really that a vast number of veterans are out there waiting for someone to ask them to join us. What better way is there to begin in the VFW than as a Charter Member of a new Post.

From the bottom of my heart, Billy Ray, thank you for appointing me Chief of Staff for 1984-85. We are First . . . Serving America.

Report of Inspector General

J.P. Cockrill

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars as Inspector General this past year under the leadership of Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron and his capable staff of officers. This has been an enjoyable as well as an informative year and one that I will always remember.

All the State Commanders and their Inspectors have done an outstanding job this year. Many of the Departments have already made their goals—100% inspection of Posts. As of this May writing 8,660 Posts of the total 9,646 Posts have been inspected. I am sure the goal of 100% inspection can be and will be attained before this term of office expires.

The cooperation of the Staff at National Headquarters and the Washington Office has been most helpful. The efficient manner in which they perform their duties has made my duties and travels easier to perform. A special thanks to Adjacent Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., and his staff for their support. John Senk, Director of Post Services, is to be commended for the efficient operation of his office. He has always been there with the answers when I needed him.

Finally, I thank Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron for appointing me Inspector General of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Billy Ray, I will always be grateful to you for this opportunity.

Report of Assistant Adjutant General, Administrative

Edward L. Burnham

The Assistant Adjutant General Administrative, is assigned the responsibility of assisting the Adjutant General in conducting and managing the Administrative and executive functions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. His responsibilities include Administrative Services, General Services, Post Services and Buddy Poppy divisions at National Headquarters.

Included in this are such diverse areas as monitoring and reviewing Department budgets and financial reports; preparation of administrative pamphlets and forms required for internal and external use; preparation of National awards, citations and letters of commendation; the annual publication of the VFW Constitution, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual following the National Convention; approving and endorsing requests for surplus military equipment; maintenance of historical and legal files; processing correspondence; keeping records of the National Convention and Council of Administration meetings; maintaining eligibility files of National Officers; insuring the proper recording of names and addresses of National, Department and Post Officers, and many other legal and administrative functions required for the proper and efficient operation of the organization.

Most Department Quartermasters are diligent about forwarding the quarterly and annual financial reports and budgets required under the National By-Laws. All reports are carefully reviewed and acknowledged by the Director of Administrative Services. Every effort is made to clarify any financial matters perceived to be unclear and to provide on site assistance to those Quartermasters who have requested or needed help. The records will show that most Departments have adopted sound money management procedures and policies and we are pleased to note that most Quartermasters fulfill their responsibility of keeping their Council of Administration completely informed of their Departments financial status.

As the manner of conducting business increases in complexity, the importance of maintaining records and up-to-date and approved Post By-Laws becomes more and more apparent. The Commander-in-Chief's Statement of Policy for the operation, management and control of Post canteens/clubs addresses the changing requirements and needs of our growing Posts. The wide acceptance of this policy has served to strengthen canteen/club operations. As financial responsibility laws become more restrictive, there is a greater need for Posts to insure that Articles of Incorporation have been submitted to the Adjutant General for approval of the Commander-in-Chief in accordance with the National By-Laws and then properly recorded with the appropriate state authority. Approved By-Laws serve to smooth out internal Post operations, while Articles of Incorporation provide for the corporate entity of the

Post and afford individual members protection from legal obligations of the Post. All Posts should have both By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation approved by the Commander-in-Chief.

Other administrative matters under the supervision of the Assistant Adjutant General, Administrative, include the resolution of membership eligibility. The reviews of court martial proceedings and appeals for the Commander-in-Chief and research in the preparation of rulings by the Commander-in-Chief also fall within the spectrum of responsibilities assigned to the Assistant Adjutant General, Administrative, along with questions concerning emblem matters and the unauthorized reproductions and/or/ use of the VFW name, emblem and membership lists.

Finally, the Credentials for the National Convention and the resolutions and proposed amendments to the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual submitted by National Officers and Department Conventions, which are considered here at the 86th National Convention, are processed, printed and disseminated by the Office of the Adjutant General.

All these and many more routine administrative tasks are performed on a daily basis by the National Headquarters Administrative staff. It has been my privilege this past year to have had outstanding support at all levels in accomplishing administrative functions of the organization.

My special thanks go to Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., and to the National and Department Officers with whom I have worked this past year. Their qualities of leadership, industriousness and initiative assure the continued success of our great organization.

Report of Assistant Adjutant General, Programs

CURTIS M. JEWELL

The year 1984-85 proved no exception to the old saying that "records are made to be broken," as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recorded its 30th consecutive year of membership gain.

Americanism, community service, safety and youth programs continue to grow, both in quantity and quality, as VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary units reach out to assist those less fortunate than ourselves to aid communities and individuals throughout the nation.

Voluntarism, as we know it, has been a way of life for more than 200 years. In fact, America's independence was achieved as the result of "volunteers" who fought and won our freedom in 1776, thus establishing voluntarism as a way of life in this country. Since that time, individuals and organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, have carried on volunteer work that has served to make the United States of America the greatest nation on earth.

VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary units contribute more than 100 million man hours and $91 million to community service projects each year. Over 900,000 persons have received instructions in VFW Drive-to-Survive training since the program was instituted in 1973. More than 30 million bicycles have been reflectorized with Lite-a-Bike tape since 1963.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States sponsors numerous youth programs that include more than 1,100 Boy Scout Troops, Sons of the VFW units, Boys Clubs and Junior and Special Olympic programs. This past year, a program was introduced to assist in calling public awareness to the number of missing and exploited children throughout the country.

The VFW Voice of Democracy scriptwriting content continues to attract more than 250,000 high school students to compete in expressing their innermost feelings concerning America.

More than 12,000 VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members donated 1.5 million-plus hours of volunteer service to the Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) program last year. This does not count the untold monetary contributions and gifts that VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary members, and the Military Order of the Cootie and its auxiliary members gave to veterans in VA and local hospitals throughout the country.

The spirit of voluntarism is very much alive and continues to grow each year. This is possible through the multiple programs the VFW offers its members.

None of this work would take place without leadership. Leaders who inspire others by the example they set. Leadership such as we are fortunate to have within the VFW.

When we speak of leadership, we must recognize the contribution Vietnam veterans, led by Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, have and are continuing to make to our organization. The first Vietnam veteran to head a major veterans organization, Commander-in-Chief Cameron has proven to be an outstanding exponent of First . . . Serving America.

Report of Director of Administrative Services

OMAR KENDALL

The office of the Director of Administrative Services provides much needed assistance to the Adjutant General and the Assistant Adjutant General, Administrative, whose work loads continue to increase each year.

The word processing system which has been upgraded and expanded this year continues to be a valuable time and labor saver. This year, there has been an even greater demand placed on the word processing system to provide a more rapid response to the administrative and program requirements of National Headquarters.

Reviewing questions and documentation of eligibility of officers at all levels, as well as of current members and potential members, is an on-going process and continues to be a very time consuming project. Special Orders are issued terminating the membership of those who fail to provide documented proof of their eligibility.

Other matters which fall within the area of responsibility of the director of Administrative Services include the preparation and dissemination of General and Special Orders, the National Headquarters Bulletin, reviewing and acknowledging Department Budget and Financial Reports and the preparation and distribution of summaries of the Council of Administrative meetings.

Requests for assitance and information and inquiries are received daily from officers at every level and individual members. These are always given prompt attention and every effort is made to provide the information and assistance as soon as possible.

These and many more routine administrative functions are performed on a daily basis.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will continue to grow by First . . . Serving America.

Report of Membership Director

W. BENNY BACHAND

The Veterans of Foreign Wars' first Vietnam veteran Commander-in-Chief embarked upon the 1984-85 membership year by establishing First . . . Serving America as the VFW's guiding principle.

We inaugurated the year by sending the first renewal notice in July announcing the continuation of our member benefits for members and life members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, including the $1,000 personal accident protection policy at no cost to any member in good standing.

The response to our message was encouraging in the early months of the campaign which results in sizable membership gains.

Our membership gain began to diminish through the middle part of the year and leveled off for the remaining six months.

The 1984-85 membership year will be recorded as the 30th year of membership growth with a total membership of 2,020,293 as of June 30. This marks the second consecutive year of achieving two million members. Every member can be proud of our growth record and numerical strength.

Membership growth records were set by a number of our Departments and by the end of June, 39 of our 54 Departments had exceeded the 100% barrier while 21 Departments surpassed the National Average of 101.01% as of June 30, 1985.

Much of the credit must be given to those who occupied positions of leadership on the Post, County Council, District, Department and National levels for our successful year. Of perhaps equal or greater importance is that group of dedicated VFW members who each year works so diligently at recruiting, renewing and reinstating members.

For the sixth year in a row our total number of new and reinstated members decreased from the previous year. We reported nearly 165,000 new and reinstated members of 7.66% of our total membership and far short of our 15% goal.

We must examine this trend carefully as it is impacting on our future growth.

A record number of recruiter awards and leadership citations were given out signifying a record number of people involved in accepting the challenge of keeping the VFW First . . . Serving America.

Our Member Benefits program helped produce a record number of continuous members of 1985 with additional emphasis on contests and awards given for recruiting effort.

The conference races, once again, were exciting with the Big Ten as usual, leading going into the Washington Conference and the Southern Conference the winner on June 30. All Conferences broke through the 100% barrier. The Southern Conference racked up membership gains in excess of 10,000. The Western Conference gained more than 2,500. The Big Ten exceeded 4,500 and the Eastern Conference gained more than 4,600.

The All American program continued to make improvements in the selection process.

Department Commanders had the opportunity to achieve this distinguished award by meeting or exceeding their assigned membership percentage and reporting 85% overall in VFW programs.

This open competition produced 29 All American Department Commanders.

The District, County Council and Post All American programs were designed with more emphasis on VFW programs which resulted in 35 District Commanders qualifying as All American and 51 Post Commanders being selected to this elite group of leaders.

The Departments of New York and Ohio earned the two All American County Council Commanders.

A special salute is given to all the District and Post Commanders who earned a place on the year-end National Honor Roll of Districts and Posts. Noteworthy recognition is given to the top 10 Commanders in each of the eight National District Divisions and 20 National Post Divisions. These Commanders are the champions of champions, the leaders of their peers.

Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron provided us with outstanding leadership this year. His challenge is to excel. His innovative programs and his great love of this organization have propelled us to the position that we hold today. His sincere interest in recognizing the grass roots workers of the VFW had made it possible for thousands of our members to meet our top VFW officer for the first time. We were able to succeed because of the time and effort expended by hundreds of thousands of volunteers.

Our work has just begun. Innovative marketing techniques are being developed to assist us with our membership work. Our future depends upon each member getting a member to join or reactivate a former member.

It is the only way the Veterans of Foreign Wars can continue to be First . . . Serving America.

Report of Public Relations and Publications

HOWARD SILBER, *Chairman*

JOHN SMITH, DIRECTOR, *Publications*

WADE LADUE, DIRECTOR, *Public Relations*

RON DUCHIN, *Public Affairs, Washington*

This portion of the "annual report to the stockholders" combines three directorates whose activities are almost inseparable. All are in the image, opinion and perception business, so in a departure from previous reports, it is useful to explain their functions.

Briefly stated, the publications department now produces the VFW Magazine 11 times a year with the addition of a December issue. It also oversees the editing and publishing of the nine-times-a-year Communicator, the monthly Washington Action Reporter and the "as required" Pass in Review, a special newsletter for Past Commanders-in-Chief and Past Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary.

With the addition of electronic typesetting equipment, almost every publication is now produced within the confines of the National Headquarters building in Kansas City at substantial savings to the organization.

This department also lends a hand in the initiation or revision of most VFW pamphlets and brochures no matter what directorate.

Much of the news affecting our organization emanates from Washington, D.C. Ron Duchin, the Director of Public Affairs in the Washington Office, handles the almost nonstop dissemination of these releases and keeps the VFW name in front of the hundreds of news bureaus located in the capital. Along with this, he authors articles, maintains close relationships with policy and opinion makers and recommends internal policy on organizational programs.

The public relations office in Kansas City focuses on policy and plans, all other news affecting the organization, community relations in Kansas City, PR assistance for Departments, Districts and Posts, general media relations and chair officer support.

Supporting and advising this operation is a highly experienced National Public Relations and Publications Committee chaired by Howard Silber, of the Omaha World Herald. Other members who serve as Vice Chairman include Dominic Antonelli, a newspaper editor for over 30 years; Kermit Tarleton, an editor for the New Orleans Times-Picayune; Norm Dohn, professor of journalism at Ohio University, and Stuart Lindman, public affairs director of Channel 5 in Minneapolis.

These operations, these people and the employees are dedicated to projecting our organization through various communicative means to the membership and the general public. They are also dedicated to helping Posts, Districts, County Councils and Departments do the same. Their activities cross all lines as there is nothing the organization does or fails to do that doesn't have a "public" impact.

As has been the case in the past, we will continue to focus on supporting the issues of interest to you as expressed through the adoption of the various resolutions here in Dallas and those special projects, such as the State of Liberty restoration. Once again, we will need your help in telling the VFW story to the nation and the world. To this end we welcome your suggestions and initiatives.

We offer our sincere appreciation to the National chair officers who have been more than willing to accede to many requests from the media and who have supported our respective programs to the utmost.

Also due a tremendous vote of gratitude is the active membership, the comrades and sisters who voluntarily toil in the trenches and who, by their actions, enhance the image and meaning of the organization.

Finally, the VFW has truly "First. . . . Served America" and will continue to do so as we "Reach for New Horizons." The issues that confront the organization are many. Their importance to the future of the veterans' system of entitlements and the security of our nation is great. Your publications and public relations operations will do their utmost to ensure positive results for the overall betterment and growth of the organization.

Report of Americanism

PAUL SPERA, *Chairman*

RAYMOND N. PRICE, *Director*

Those who reap the benefits offered the citizens of a nation, owe a great debt to those who sacrifice for the protection and defense of that nation.

In his Second Inaugural Address, President Abraham Lincoln charged the United States with the task of rebuilding itself and "to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and his widow and his orphan. . . ."

It is truly the sacred obligation of a nation to provide some form of reparation to those who sacrificed so much in the nation's service. This not a new or radical concept. Most civilized nations provide some kind of special benefits for their veterans.

Throughout the years, the United States for the most part has lived up to this obligation of special entitlements for those who served. In many ways the United States has shown its citizens that veterans are something special.

Apparently there has been of late a change of thinking by some sections of the government concerning veterans. Why this should be so is beyond understanding. But it is true nonetheless.

This seems heartless, for America's veterans answered their nation's call and they sacrificed a great deal through their service to their country. Some did more than others, but the nation still owes them all a special form of thanks.

America's veterans did their duty and according to one of history's most respected soldiers, Robert E. Lee, "Duty is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less."

We in the VFW hate war as only those who have seen war can. We know its brutality, its futility and its stupidity, but we believe in the obligation that a grateful nation owes those who have given honorable service in time of need.

The Veterans Administration is now under attack by many who feel that its mission should be parcelled out to the private sector or to other government agencies. The VA detractors, the Grace Commission, the Office of Management and Budget, the Heritage Foundation and the Congressional Budget Office seem to feel that many programs vital to veterans are just too expensive to maintain and therefore must go.

We in the VFW understand the need for deficit reduction, and we would have little complaint if cuts were across the board. Veterans, however, have experienced reduced or frozen COLAs, cuts in VA construction and delays in almost every phase of the entitlements guaranteed by their government. It is time for others to share the sacrifice and the burden of budget cuts.

Watch the budget cutters, watch them carefully. If you see something you don't like, let your congressman know. Don't hesitate, write or phone them any time you feel that your rights and entitlements are in jeopardy. We will try to keep them in line. With your help, it will be a lot easier.

This has been a fairly good year in Americanism. Our national average is the 90% area. We have about 10 Departments 100% reported and many more in the 90s. These 90% Departments all have a good shot at making the 100% plateau.

In the race among the Conferences, the Big Ten, with over 95%, leads the way; the Southern, Western in that order, although the difference between the Southern and Western Conferences is, at this late spring writing, less than one percentage point.

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary must continue their good works in Americanism because there is a need for strong patriotic thinking in this nation. The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary must continue to provide Americans of all ages with the tools, education and guidance necessary to keep America always free, as we Reach for New Horizons.

Report of Community Activities

GEORGE D. MILLER, *Chairman*

RAYMOND N. PRICE, *Director*

One of the important basics for the growth has been the reporting system. Without reports from the Posts and Auxiliaries in the field, the Community Activities Program and all the National programs that fall under its umbrella would stagnate.

There are many reasons why Posts and Auxiliaries should report. Not only does reporting put them in a position to be recognized for their efforts, but it allows an exchange of ideas among Posts that might otherwise never come into contact with each other.

A most important reason for reporting is that it provides a permanent record of charitable activities to help substantiate a Post or Auxiliary claim to nonprofit status in the offchance the IRS should look into their activities.

Community Activities is meeting the needs of your community, and we all know a great many of our Posts and Auxiliaries do an outstanding job of fulfilling the needs of their communities. We also know that many of these Posts and Auxiliaries do not stop to take the small amount of time and effort necesary to report their activities.

If all the Posts and Auxiliaries that performed community service work would report their efforts, most of our Departments would be 100 percent credited by the end of Dcember.

Don't wait for the other guy or gal to take the initiative, do it yourself. We need you and we need your help in this matter. Without your help, we face the possibility of decreasing interest in National programs. And let's face it, National programs play a very important part in the membership gains this great organization has realized over the past 30 years.

National programs build membership and membership builds National programs. This has always been true. Do yourself, your Post and/or Auxiliary and your community a big favor . . . Support Your National Programs.

The 1984-85 reporting year has been really fantastic. The Big Ten Conference is, for what I believe is the first time in history, 100 percent credited in Community Activities. As a matter of fact, the other three Conferences are doing better than usual as well. All three, the South, the West and the East, are over 90 percent credited. The national average is in the high 90s and the programs look truly sound. I am extremely happy with the progress this year.

It is an accepted fact that throughout our nation, VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are considered a valuable and highly desirable part of their communities. Why? Because they are truly interested in the affairs of their communities. The VFW and its Auxiliary raise the consciousness of the community in such vital areas as patriotism, safety and concern for youth through their involvement in VFW National programs. The VFW and its Auxiliary promise constant effort to keep America always free as we reach for New Horizons.

Report of Post Development

JOSEPH D. ROSS, *Director*

The Veterans of Foreign Wars established 255 new Posts in communities across the nation between July 1, 1984, and May 1, 1985. These new Posts reported more than 10,000 new and/or reinstated members to National Headquarters. This membership is vital to the continuous growth of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Post Extension Program was established in 1965-66. Its primary function was to strengthen membership throughout the country by organizing new Posts. Twenty years have passed and the record speaks for itself, more than 4,414 new Posts have been established. This represents a yearly average of 220 new Posts since the program was founded. Frequently it is asked how many of these Posts last. The retention rate for Post Development is 76.71%. Thus almost eight out of every 10 have succeded.

New Posts have given the Veterans of Foreign Wars an opportunity to expand its many outstanding programs in new communities and to enhance our image in these communities. Additional benefits to the Veterans of Foreign Wars are added per capita tax to Departments and National Headquarters; an increase in the sale of Buddy Poppies; increased sale of merchandise from the Emblem and Supply Department; a source of new ideas and new leadership at the Post, District, County Council, Department and National levels; service to veterans and their dependents in their local areas; and the opportunity to further the goals and ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Through May 31, in the 1984-85 year, 28 Departments have attained their New Post Goal and a total of 42 Departments have developed from one to 25 new Posts. The number of new Posts reported by Departments are Ohio, 25; New York, 17; Nebraska and Tennessee, 16 each; Pennsylvania, 13; North Carolina, 11; Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland and Texas, 10 each; Arizona, Florida, New Jersey and Wisconsin, eight each; Missouri, seven; Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan and Washington, six each; Indiana, Iowa and South Carolina, five each; Colorado and Oklahoma, four each; California, three; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Virginia and West Virginia, two each; and Alabama, Alaska, District of Columbia, Germany, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oregon and Vermont, one each. These total 255 new Posts.

Most important for a new Post is the follow-up. This will be stressed more in the coming year. We must profit from past experience and be sure a new Post is well informed of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' basic aims, purposes and programs. We must make every effort to assist the newly established Post until it is on a sound basis. A well-versed member should be assigned to the new Post by the Department to keep watch and be responsible for its success. In many cases an older Post will volunteer to assist or adopt the new Post as a project. This has proven very successful in many Departments. Each Post is important to the overall success of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its programs. No program runs smoothly all the time. Therefore, we find Posts that are having problems. Ture leadership will confront the problem situation and step forward with wisdom and foresight to detect and correct the problem. Too often, officers take the easy way out, that of seeking cancellation of the Post Charter. This is not the way to overcome the problem. We must face the situation with optimism.

Past experience shows that most problems can be worked out with proper attention from the Dirstict, County Council or Department. Interest must have existed among veterans in the area for a Post to be formed. It is a challenge to the leadership to rekindle the members' interest and to inspire them to become active again. Remember, when we lose a Post, we lose our representation in that community and the community loses the benefits provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As we enter 1985-86 year, the cooperation of each and every VFW member and officer is needed as we "Reach for New Horizons" in Post Development.

Report of Post Services

John J. Senk, Jr., *Director*

The office of Director of Post Services is charged with the responsibility for maintaining and updating the official records of our nearly 10,000 Posts, maintaining current rosters of the officers of these Posts, the amount of Post dues and responding to requests dealing with these matters on a daily basis.

Through experience, we have learned that certain records must be maintained, while others, seldom used and of little historical value, must be eliminated. Such a systematic, measured study of existing procedures helps us to meet the ever changing needs of our organization. With that philosophy in mind, the functions performed in Post services are being reviewed and updated as the need arises.

The Post Officer file is one of the most frequently used at National Headquarters. It contains the name and address of each Post Commander and Post Quartermaster, the chartered name and location of the Post, the annual dues, the status of the Post and the muster date. The file is updated annually and as changes occur during the year with the primary source of the information that is fed into the file coming from the Post Election Report. Because this file is used so frequently, it is extremely important that all Posts file Post Election Reports. Without it, National Headquarters has no one to communicate with at the Post. Dues notices cannot be mailed until the Election Report is received listing the amount of Post dues and the name and address of the Post Quartermaster. This record is the backbone of the Post Records section and the basis for all other records. The file is maintained on the computer and is updated on a daily basis as changes are received.

As the Reports of Election of Post Officers for the 1985-86 year are received and processed, computer acknowledgments are sent to the Post Quartermaster-elect to confirm the name and address of the Post Commander and Post Quartermaster and the amount of dues for the 1985-86 membership year. Copies of these acknowledgments and any subsequent changes are sent to the respective Departments.

This acknowledgment is on a preaddressed and prepaid return post card with space provided for corrections and/or changes for any of the information shown on the card. If the information shown is correct, the Post retains the card for use during the 1985-86 administrative year to report any changes in the amount of Post dues and/or in the offices or addresses of the Post Commander and Post Quartermaster. As corrections and/or changes are reported and made, these, too, are acknowledged so the Post Quartermaster always has a return post card in his possession to report any subsequent changes. Files and historical records of Posts are maintained for replacement of charters, consolidation actions and compilation of lists of Past Commanders. All charter actions and important documents are microfilmed for preservation. Also, Incorporation and By-Law documents and actions of the Commander-in-Chief relating to each are maintained for each Post.

Another area of responsibility for the Post Services Department at National Headquarters is the Post Inspection. This year 8,992 Post Inspection Reports have been received as of May 31 out of a total of 9,634 Posts for 93.3%. Inspectors and Commanders of Departments having 100% of their Posts inspected are to be commended for their diligence.

The Post Inspection Program provides State Commanders and other officers with important information concerning the operation of each Post under their jurisdiction. Over the years as the manner of doing business has become more complex, primarily because of the ever increasing number of local, state and federal laws and regulations, the Post Inspection Program has taken on increased significance. Post inspections insure that financial safeguards are maintained and that the Post is operating in accordance with provisions of the National By-Laws and regulations of the Department as well as governmental statutes. All Inspection Reports are reviewed personally by the Director of Post Services. Where possible or known discrepanices are evidenced, copies of the Inspection Reports are returned to the State Commander asking for a review of the discrepanices and requesting corrective action be taken. As a result of these review procedures, the Inspection Program has become more meaningful. When properly used, the results provide Commanders at all levels with a reliable indication of potential trouble areas and give early indication of those Posts which are in need of assistance.

Post Inspection Report forms are reviewed annually to insure that they are providing the type of information which will best assist Commanders and Inspecting Officers in carrying out their responsibilities. The District and County Council Inspection Report forms also are being revised this year to reflect more closely the inspection of items of concern to those Commanders. The Inspectors carry out the program in a conscientious and concerned manner. It is a management tool of great value if administered properly.

The National Convention is a time to pause and reflect on what we have accomplished in the preceding months and where we are going in the months ahead. The administrative and recordkeeping demands of our great organization are currently being met, but more important, orderly systematic planning for the future assures us that we will be ready to meet the challenges posed by our growing organization.

Report of Buddy Poppy

JAMES L. BOOTH, *Chairman*

JOHN J. SENK, JR., *Director*

". . . to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans . . ."

These words, found in Article I of the Constitution of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, are repeated countless times at Post meetings throughout the country.

It is significant that the founders of our organization devoted nearly one-fourth of their enumeration of the objects and purposes to the programs which later were advanced and supported by the sale of the VFW Buddy Poppy.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has a proud heritage of service to the disabled and needy veteran. Without that service, we would be hard-pressed to justify our existence.

Worthy comrades are assisted through our nationwide system of Veterans Service Officers; the memory and history of our dead are perpetuated through the wearing of the Poppy; and widows and orphans are aided at our VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids.

Indiana set the pace for the 1984-85 Buddy Poppy sale by increasing its sales by 52,500 followed by Nebraska with an increase of 40,500. Once again, Minnesota captured the number-one slot for Department sales with 1,101,015. Twenty-eight Departments have increased their sales over last year's.

Buddy Poppy plaques are awarded to the Department and Auxiliary that shows the greatest percentage increase over its own previous three-year average in each of the nine divisions. Divisions are determined by the three-year average sale per thousand of population, with the exception of foreign and domestic Departments with average sales of fewer than 45,000.

Divisional winners for 1984-85 are: Division 1, Department of Alaska and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 2, Department of Ohio and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 3, Department of Indiana and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 4, Department of Nevada and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 5, Department of New Mexico and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 7, Department of Virginia and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 8, Department of North Carolina and its Ladies Auxiliary; and Division 9, Department of Panama.

Our thanks and appreciation to our National Officers, Department Commanders, Adjutants, Quartermasters and the distinguished and conscientious members of the National Buddy Poppy Committee. They are James L. Booth, of Virginia; Charles Jones, of Tennessee; James Kimery, of New Mexico; Victor Hinze, of Wisconsin; Joseph Gumo, of New York; David Saldana, of California, and Ida McCracken, of Virginia, representing the Ladies Auxiliary. Each performed with dedication and diligence throughout the year.

It is their kind of leadership that enables the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to continue being "First Serving America."

Report of Youth Activities

JULIAN BRISENDINE, *Chairman*

LAWRENCE LEFEBVRE, *Director*

The membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars recognizes the importance of shaping America's youth. Providing wholesome activities that stress fair play and good citizenship has been the goal and guiding principle of the National Youth Activities Committee this year. Some of the foremost youth programs in the organization today are:

Sons of the VFW

This Activity is for boys whose parents or grandparents are eligible for membership in the VFW. At the present time, 956 VFW Posts have Sons of the VFW Units.

Scouting

Some 1,360 Posts sponsor Boy Scout units. An equal number support the VFW-BSA partnership by providing adult leadership, meeting space, Americanism materials and safety aids to thousands of Cub packs, Scout troops and Explorer posts. Twelve VFW outstanding Scouters were selected from the six training programs on VFW scholarships this past year. This annual program provided recognition and incentive for VFW members who are serving Scouting in leadership roles.

Junior Rifle

The VFW and the National Rifle Association provide an opportunity for boys and girls to receive training in gun safety and marksmanship and to experience the fellowship and competition of a rifle club activity. NRA furnishes aids for affiliated Junior Rifle Clubs of VFW Posts and Sons of the VFW Units.

Youth Bowling

Teams sponsored by Posts in every Department provide instruction and competition for boys and girls in one of the nation's principal lifetime sports and fun activities.

ROTC

If a school in your area sponsors the ROTC Program, this is an outstanding opportunity for your Post to be active in youth programs. The VFW ROTC awards for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership ability are available for both Junior and Senior ROTC programs from the Emblem and Supply Department.

Special Olympics

A major fund-raising effort sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary to bring the next one million mentally retarded citizens into the Special Olympics programs and to support the year-round programs to accommodate them.

Posts are active in all facets of youth sports in addition to baseball, basketball, football, hockey, swimming, wrestling, golf and tennis.

Hundreds of other youth activities have been documented in reports from more than 8,000 VFW Posts during the past year.

The VFW has endorsed the Junior Olympics and American Youth Soccer Organization. Brochures and pertinent information regarding these youth programs are available from National Headquarters.

Report of Voice of Democracy

BERNARD McCLELLAND, *Chairman*

LAWRENCE LeFEBVRE, *Director*

The foremost youth program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars is the annual Voice of Democracy Scriptwriting Scholarship contest.

In completing its 38th year at the VFW Washington Conference, the Voice of Democracy Program again reached a quarter of a millon 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in public, private and parochial schools across the country.

The sixth place award for $1,000 is given annually by the Tallman Insurance Agency in the memory of Francis J. Tallman, a longtime friend of the VFW and supporter of youth programs.

In addition to competing for the national scholarships totaling $32,500, all state winners received expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., where they visited national shrines and observed firsthand the workings of the federal government. State winners who were sponsored by their respective Departments also attended the American Academy of Achievement's Salute to Excellence weekend in Denver, June 27-30, 1985.

Each received the Academy's Golden Scroll Award and was enrolled in the Academy's Hall of Fame for America's Young Captains of Achievement. The National winner received the Academy's Golden Eagle Award for the Promise of Greatness.

The Voice of Democracy has been endorsed continuously by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and has been placed on its advisory list of approved contests and activities.

The top six winners for the 1984/85 program were first place, $14,000; Kristin Lindholm, of Kansas City, Missouri; sponsored by VFW Post 302 and Ladies Auxiliary; second place, $7,000; Lisa Swallows, of Cookeville, Tennessee; sponsored by VFW Post 6296 and Ladies Auxiliary; third place, $4,500; Christopher Jordan, of Smithfield, North Carolina; sponsored by VFW Post 5886 and Ladies Auxiliary; fourth place, $3,500; Marjorie Scholtz, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; sponsored by VFW Post 709 and Ladies Auxiliary; fifth place, $3,500; Scott Wendorf, of Raton, New Mexico, sponsored by VFW Post 1793 and Ladies Auxiliary; sixth place, Ann Schneller, of Rapid City, South Dakota; sponsored by VFW Post 1273 and Ladies Auxiliary.

Scholarships, savings bonds and other awards totaling more than $675,000 were provided by Posts, Auxiliaries, County Councils, Districts and Departments. The theme for the 1985-86 Voice of Democracy Program is "New Horizons for America's Youth."

Report of Safety

DONALD NIKKEL, *Chairman*

JOSEPH D. ROSS, *Director*

Chairman Donald Nikkel and I wish to thank each and every member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary who participated in the Safety Program this past year. I am sure that many long hours of hard work and extra effort by these comrades and sisters are the reason the Safety Program is nationally reported higher than ever before.

The interest and enthusiasm of our members have made the Safety Program one of our organization's fastest growing programs. In the 1985-86 year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary will present a six-point National Safety Program.

Home Protection

The Home Protection Program is two-fold: Fire Prevention and Home Security. Posts and Auxiliaries across the nation and overseas conduct seminars in an effort to educate persons in their communities in how to protect themselves and their property.

Working in conjunction with local law enforcement and fire officials, VFW members have distributed thousands of VFW "Fire Prevention" and "Home Security" checklists as a community service.

Drive to Survive

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Drive to Survive Program, a three-hour course, teaches good drivers to be better drivers. It is designed to prevent traffic accidents by showing how to recognize road hazards, to understand the defense against these hazards and to take the necessary preventative action in time. Law enforcement agencies are cooperating with VFW Post and Auxiliaries by providing traffic specialists to assist in the project.

Bicycle Safety

The current popularity of the bicycle, combined with grim new accident statistics, is establishing the bicycle as a major safety concern. Accident statistics can be greatly reduced if proper instruction is provided. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary present two programs in Bicycle Safety: Lite-A-Bike and Safe Bicycling.

Lite-A-Bike, one of the most effective VFW community service activities, has provided reflective tape for more than 30 million bicycles since the program was initated. VFW and Auxiliary members affix pre-cut strips of reflective tape that illuminate and silhouette the bicycle.

Many police and fire departments, PTA groups and other civic and fraternal organizations lend support and assistance to this program which has saved the lives of many cyclists.

Safe Bicycling, sponsored by the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary, brings an audiovideo presentation into the classrooms at local elementary schools. It provides a real learning experience for children on the essentials of bicycle safety. All schools have the equipment to utilize this program.

Recognition and Publicly Commending

Certificates of Appreciation are available from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department. The citations are available for law enforcement agencies or officers and fire departments or individual fire fighters and emergency medical technicians.

Veterans Fight Drugs

The VFW Drug Abuse Program is an action-initiated effort to assist in controlling and eliminating the abuse and illegal use of drugs. Sponsored seminars conducted by trained law enforcement officers provide the adult community with the necessary information to combat the drug problem.

Hunter Safety

This educational program is sponsored by Posts and Auxiliaries in coordination with their state fish, game and wildlife commissions.

The primary purpose is to promote responsible and ethical conduct in order to emphasize the importance of laws and regulations and to learn safe handling of hunting equipment.

This coming year, the Safety Program will play a vital part as the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Reach for New Horizons."

Report of National Home

DR. THEODORE H. WILSON IIII, *Executive Director*

JOSEPH EPLING, *Secretary/Treasurer*

The 60th anniversary of the VFW National Home this year marked a renewal of commitment to serving the children and families of deceased and disabled VFW members.

Increasing the number of children and single-parent families served by the National Home continues to be an important issue. State, District and Post/Auxiliary officers are instrumental in contacting needy families to discuss how the Home could help them. Administrative Coordinator Jerry Cartwright closeley monitors any referrals made, thus streamlining that process. Besides handling referrals, Jerry has also made visits to conventions, Districts and Posts to explain the Home's program to the membership. As an alumnus of the National Home, Jerry has a special place in his heart for the VFW and it Ladies Auxiliary.

The VFW National Home Fire Department continues to be a major attraction at the Home after its appearance on ABC-TV's "That's Incredible!" The young firefighters are proud of their affiliation with the VFW, and it shows.

The Education Department has grown under the direction of Supervisor Murray Britton. Part-time Educational Assistants have expanded the tutoring programs. Other areas of growth are enrichment, readiness and job training programs. A senior trip to Washington, D.C., this spring was once again conducted for high school seniors with good grade point averages. Award dinners for all ages are held twice each year.

A set of Campus Guidelines has been developed from the National Home Philosophy of Child Care. These are standards that all the Home can live by. Campus worship services are conducted weekly in the chapel.

The recreational needs of National Home residents have been amply met. Community Center programs have been in full swing all summer, with the Cootie swimming pool as the biggest attraction. A fitness program for adults and children was started in the spring with promising results. A 4-H program, led by a qualified instructor, also is in operation, and "Challenge" camping is available for hardy individuals.

An independent living program is in operation to assist students who soon will make the transition from life at the National Home to life as an adult in today's world. Qualified high school seniors may reside in an apartment on or off campus, learning independent living skills such as budgeting, cooking and general housekeeping. Students qualify for this arrangement by demonstrating mature behavior and good academic records throughout their junior year, and by continuing this behavior while on the program.

Life Memberships in the National Home continue to grow. Still priced at $25, they remain a source of continuing income from which only interest is climbing.

The farm is stocked with animals. These animals provide a learning experience for children taking part in the 4-H program.

The VFW National Home is actively serving veterans' children and families, as reflected by its population. Any member of the VFW or its Auxiliary could at some time need the services the Home offers. You are the key to finding those who need the help this Home has to offer. Contact VFW National Home Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827-9799.

Report of the National Legislative Service

JOSEPH L. VICITES, *Chairman*

DONALD H. SCHWAB, *Director*

The high and noble purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, now in its 86th year, as stated in our motto, "Honor The Dead By Helping The Living," is personified by our constant pursuit before the Congress of the United States of legislation to improve and update laws pertaining to the entitlements and benefits for veterans, their dependents, widows and orphans.

The foregoing is accomplished by numerous appearances before the various committees and subcommittees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives by national officers from the Commander-in-Chief on down. Such testimony, including our legislative posture, is based upon mandates in the form of resolutions passed by the voting delegates to each National Convention and the priority legislative program adopted by the Commander-in-Chief. The preparation of such testimony is the primary responsibility of the Director of the National Legislative Service, with research accomplished by him and his staff, following which, coordination is obtained from appropriate Directors.

The 86th National Convention passed several hundred resolutions for the closing months of the First Session of the 99th Congress and into the eighth month of the Second Session of the 99th Congress. A digest of those resolutions pertaining to veterans' benefits and services follows:

Veterans Service

Resolution No. 601—Proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.
Resolution No. 603—Feres Doctrine and Armed Personnel.
Resolution No. 604—Amend Title 38, U.S. Code.
Resolution No. 607—Judicial Review.
Resolution No. 608—Herbicide Exposure of Women Veterans.
Resolution No. 609—Expand PTSD Treatment Program.
Resolution No. 611—Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).
Resolution No. 612—Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).
Resolution No. 613—Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act (EVJTA).
Resolution No. 614—New Legislative Initiatives.
Resolution No. 615—Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) Program.
Resolution No. 616—Vocational Rehabilitation.
Resolution No. 617—Staffing Reductions in Veterans Administration Hospital System.
Resolution No. 618—Third Party Payments for Veterans Health Care.
Resolution No. 619—Reduction of Medical Care for Non-Service Connected Veterans 65 Years of Age and Older.
Resolution No. 620—Vietnam Era GI Bill and Vocational Rehabilitation.
Resolution No. 624—To Provide for an Open National Cemetery in Every State.
Resolution No. 625—Funding for a New Visitors Center for Arlington Natioanl Cemetery.
Resolution No. 626—JROTC Instructor Pay and Allowances.
Resolution No. 627—Disposition of Remains of Retirees.
Resolution No. 628—Overseas Employmnet Opportunities with the Armed Forces for Retirees.

Resolution No. 629—Post Exchange and Commissary Privileges for Retirees in Overseas Areas.

Resolution No. 630—Recomputation of Retiree Pay for Pre-1970 Retirees.

Resolution No. 631—Use of Military Postal Service by the VFW.

Resolution No. 632—Postal Privileges for Box R Patrons.

Resolution No. 633—Designate the Phoenix VA Medical Center as the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center.

Resolution No. 635—Provide Outpatient Treatment Fee Basis Authority for Former Prisoners-of-War.

Resolution No. 637—Opposing Veterans Administration Disability Compensation Freeze.

Resolution No. 638—Opposing Taxing of VA Compensation Paid to Disabled Veterans.

Resolution No. 641—To Provide a Ten Year Protection Period for Service-Connected Disability Evaluation.

Resolution No. 643—Rejection in Total of Any Proposals Made by the Grace Commission That Would Adversely Affect in Any Way Benefits and Programs Administered by the Veterans Administration for Veterans and Their Dependents.

Resolution No. 648—Opposition to Inclusion of VA Hospital System in Any National Health Insurance Plan or Any Consolidation with Health Care Systems Not Related to Military Service.

Resolution No. 649—Means Test for Non-Service Connected Veterans.

Resolution No. 653—Restore Eligibility to Benefits.

Resolution No. 654—VA Home Loan Guaranty Program.

Resolution No. 661—Change of Dates for Entitlement Under the Provisions of U.S. Code, Title 38, Subsection 101(29) for Vietnam ERA.

Resolution No. 662—Concerning Recent Changes in Policy by the Department of Medicine and Surgery, Veterans Administration.

Resolution No. 664—Change of Dates for Entitlement Under the Provisions of U.S. Code, Title 38.

Resolution No. 669—Restore Criteria for LVER's Assignments.

Resolution No. 672—Special Employment Program for Older Veterans.

Resolution No. 673—Do Not Break Faith with Veterans—Maintain Benefits.

Resolution No. 678—Change UI Law for Servicemen.

Resolution No. 680—Continue Champus for Military Retirees after Age 65.

Resolution No. 681—Per Diem Rate for State Veterans Homes, Hospitals and Domiciliaries.

Resolution No. 683—Retention of an Adequate Surgical Department at the Livermore VAMC, California.

Resolution No. 684—Preservation of the National Soldier Home Located at the VA Center, West Los Angeles.

Resolution No. 685—Establishment of an Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California.

Resolution No. 686—Veterans Organ Donor Program.

Resolution No. 687—Establishment of a VA Satellite Outpatient Clinic in Redding, California.

Resolution No. 688—Career Awareness Program.

Resolution No. 692—Reestablish a Veterans Administration Assistance Office in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Resolution No. 694—Elimination of Forfeiture of Reserve and VA Disability Pay to Reserve Personnel with VA Compensated Disabilities.

Resolution No. 695—Provide Adequate Staff Funding for Training and Employment of Veterans.

Resolution No. 697—Use of VA Per Diem in State Veterans Home.

Resolution No. 698—Shortages in Medical Professionals.

Resolution No. 699—Operation of Defense Installation Commissary Facilities.

Resolution No. 700—Statutory Protection of Reservists in Employment.

Resolution No. 702—Replacement of VAMC, Allen Park, Michigan.

Resolution No. 703—Catch 62.

Resolution No. 705—National Service Life Insurance.

Resolution No. 708—Apprenticeship Training.

Resolution No. 709—World War I Pension.

Resolution No. 710—Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic, Duluth, Minnesota.

Resolution No. 717—Veterans' Health Care.

Resolution No. 719—Upright Grave Markers for Black Hills National Cemetery.

Resolution No. 724—Reactive "Jobs for Veterans" Committee.

Resolution No. 725—Amend Chapter 41, Title 38 U.S.C.

Resolution No. 726—Civil Service Reform Act.

Resolution No. 729—Military Disability Retirement Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Resolution No. 733—Waive Written Test for Disabled Veterans.

Resolution No. 735—Monitor Federal Contractors and Subcontractors to Employ Disabled and Vietnam Veterans.

Resolution No. 737—Radiation Exposure Medical Treatment and Compensation.

Resolution No. 738—Atomic Radiation Exam Extension Date.

Resolution No. 739—Recognize the Women in the Vietman War.

Resolution No. 744—Retain VA Data Processing Center at Fort Snelling.

Resolution No. 745—Support for the House Bill before the House/Senate Conference Committee.

Resolution No. 746—Oppose Staff Reduction at National Cemeteries.

Resolution No. 747—Insure Completion of Phase Five in Construction of Minneapolis VAMC.

Resolution No. 748—Incentive Therapy Program.

Resolution No. 751—Oppose Consolidation of VA Regional Offices.

Resolution No. 754—Authorize Reimbursement for State Built Domiciliary Facilities.

Resolution No. 757—Amend Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act.

Resolution No. 764—Oppose Cut-Backs of Veterans Benefits.

Resolution No. 765—Equal Punishment for All.

Resolution No. 767—VA Mobile Health Unit for Westchester, New York.

Resolution No. 768—Employment Service Policy.

Resolution No. 769—Veterans' Preference.

Resolution No. 770—Contracting Out.

Resolution No. 771—Increased Apprenticeship Opportunities for Veterans.

Resolution No. 773—Oppose the Use of 4' x 8' Grave Sites in National Cemeteries.

Resolution No. 774—Mortgage Insurance for 100% Service-Connected Disabled Veterans.

Resolution No. 775—Oppose the VA Policy Which Provides for the Exclusive Use of Flat Grave Markers.

Resolution No. 776—Herbicide Exposure.

Resolution No. 777—Contracting Out of Services in Medical Activities of the Department of Medicine and Surgery.

Resolution No. 778—Geriatric and Extended Care.

Resolution No. 779—Senate Reorganization.

Resolution No. 780—Lobby Reform Legislation.

Resolution No. 781—Opposition to S-1440.

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR—NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

Following his election and installation, Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, announced the appointment of his National Legislative Committee. Joseph L. Vicites was appointed Chairman. Designated as Vice Chairmen were: Arthur W. Burress, Colorado; Al DeStefano, Florida; Alcuin G. Loehr, Minnesota; Joseph A. Scerra, Massachusetts; Emmett A. Steizer, Texas. The following were designated as members of the National Legislative Committee: Paul Aaberg, North Dakota; Sam J. Angotti, West Virginia; Donald A. Bailey, Pennsylvania; Lloyd Barnes, West Virginia; John L. Bessaw, California; James Brooks, Maryland; Charles E. Cook, Kansas; Larry L. Dalton, Tennessee; Ralph U. De Marco, New York; Bill Devine, Nevada; Thomas Dudzik, Ohio; Thomas J. Fallon, New York; Kelly Ferber, Minnesota; Pete Frauenhoffer, Alabama; Morton Fromm, Pennsylvania; John Fyre, Ohio; Robert A. Gall, Nebraska; Melvin Garrett, New York; David Geddes, Alaska; Byron B. Gentry, California; Robert W. Goossen, Michigan; Christian L. Hammond, Arizona; James H. Haug, South Dakota; Oliver Hormell, Pennsylvania; Michael R. Hyatt, North Carolina; John Paul Jones, Kentucky; Richard Jowders, New Hampshire; Dave Klym, Oregon; Charles Kreatchman, Maryland; Arnold Leavitt, Maine; W. Leroy Maddox, Maryland; John W. Mahan, Montana; Eugene Manfrey, Florida; Robert J. McMahon, Illinois; Gardner S. McWilliams, Massachusetts; E. Edward Mortenson, Wisconsin; Arnold Muir, South Carolina; Timothy J. Murphy, Massachusetts; Steve Neal, Mississippi; Truman Odell, Oklahoma; George Pugh, Georgia; Claude Jack Ragan, North Carolina; Louis Ragghianti, Tennessee; Frank H. Rice, Illinois; Charles Roberts, Missouri; Richard L. Roudebush, Indiana; Benito Russo, Utah; Joseph Salvo, Pennsylvania; Eric Sandstrom, Washington; Thomas Schuster, Washington; Donald E. Sears, Idaho; Roger Sellers, Kansas; Edward Q. Smith, Vermont;

Robert Speake, Texas; R. Frank Sprinkle, Virginia; David Stein, Texas; Vincent Tamburino, New Jersey; Tony Thomas, Minnesota; James E. Van Zandt, Virginia; Al Voss, Iowa; John Walker, Jr., Indiana; Thomas C. Walker, California; Robert E. Wallace, New Jersey, James H. Willis, Missouri.

PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

PREAMBLE

"It (benefits) was a part of their hire . . . it was the price of their blood and of your Independency, it is therefore more than a common debt, it is a debt of honour . . ."

—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The enormity of current annual deficits, let alone the national debt, staggers the imagination. If only the 1983 deficit of $195.4 billion was paid off at the rate of $1 million per day, it would take some 535 years just to liquidate that one year's deficit. Furthermore, according to the Congressional Budget Office, almost one-half of the deficit increase in the past three years has been financed by foreign money. Escalating deficits of the magnitude now envisioned must be curbed and fiscal prudence restored if we are to enjoy a stable economy. According to many economists, to balance the budget taxes must be increased, federal spending reduced or both. No President can increase taxes or cut spending without the consent of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. Therefore, in the final analysis, the onus rests with the Congress of the United States.

If taxes are increased, those of us who are employed will contribute more of our income to the federal government thus reducing our spendable income. If federal spending is to be reduced, the only two places meaningful cuts can be made are in the national defense—which accounts for approximately 25 percent of the budget—or entitlement programs—which consume nearly 50 percent of the budget. Entitlements embrace such diverse programs as Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income, compensation for service-connected disabled veterans, pension for veterans in need due to nonservice-connected disabilities and retirement benefits for Civil Service and Armed Forces retirees.

The federal budget recommendations of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are exactly what they should be. First, there should be adequate funding for a strong national defense as all else is contingent upon our continued freedom. Our second priority is to maintain the integrity of the Veterans Administration's hospital and medical care system and the entitlement and benefit programs for our veterans. All other expenditures should follow with those who have contributed to our society being given the most consideration. Obviously, substantive cuts should not be made in national defense which has sustained untenable and even dangerous reductions in the past.

Reductions made in both needs-tested and non-needs-tested entitlement programs and cost-of-living increase deferrals imposed over the last several years have had little impact on deficit reduction since these programs continue to grow faster than the economy. Unfortunately, further cost-savings in entitlement programs will truly hurt many beneficiaries.

The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office have all published options for further reduction of spending within the Veterans Administration. One of the most worrisome originated in the Office of Management and Budget and was contained in the Administration's fiscal year 1985 budget request and is herein quoted in part:

". . . if overall veterans budget costs are to be reduced in future years, a thorough reappraisal of veterans health care system policy, hospital capacity, and operational methods will be necessary. These issues will be subject to intensive scrutiny by the Administration in preparation for the 1986 budget."

Compounding our misgivings, and most alarming to the VFW, are options listed in a recent study by the Congressional Budget Office entitled "Veterans Administration's Health Care: Planning for Future Years." Among cost-savings measures were suggestions that hospitals operated by the Va could be dismantled by 1990 and that VA nursing home care facilities could be eliminated.

The foregoing flies in the face of a study by the Veterans Administration as released in August 1984 entitled "Caring for the Older Veteran." It shows that the VA may be confronted with the enormous task of providing care for as many as 9 million veterans over age 65 by the year 2000 which will necessitate a 50 percent increase in medical care funding; a 68 percent increase in hospital care; the ability to provide for 26 million outpatient visits; and 30 Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECCs), along with other enhancements.

The challenge of meeting our Nation's commitment to a rapidly aging veteran population did not just surface in August. Its advent has been realized and anticipated for years by successive Administrations, by Congress and those of us who are involved in veteran's work. For this reason, we have in testimony before Congress, decried repeated reductions in both the Veterans Administration's budget and health care outlays as a percentage of federal expenditures. In 1975, the Veterans Administration's portion of the federal budget in outlays was 5.1 percent and for 1985 it will be 2.9 percent. Within the same time frame, the Veterans Administration's share of total federal outlays for health care has fallen from 12.5 percent to 8.6 percent.

We of the VFW believe spending priorities must be reevaluated with more consideration given to those who have contributed the most to our society. We believe the Veterans Administration must receive a larger share of the federal budget to adequately care for the veterans who sacrificed to ensure our continued freedom. We concur with the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in its report of March 8, 1984, to the Budget Committee which states in part:

". . . it appears that the facilities which the Veterans Administration presently operates and which it plans to build or renovate with the funds requested in its fiscal year 1985 budget request, will not accommodate by any measure the anticipated demand for services over the next 20 years. It is patently clear that the level of constant dollar resources must increase over this period in order to meet this increased demand while maintaining the quality of care being provided." To whom do we owe more than our veterans?

Presently, there are 331,000 Vietnam-era veterans who are unemployed. Many veterans of all eras, who are not included in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, are either seeking employment or underemployed.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is concerned over the plight of these fellow comrades. Thus, we have restated our traditional position concerning veterans preference and selective service registration requirements for all applicants requesting federal employment.

We adamantly oppose any attempt to erode the effectiveness of federal programs that are oriented toward promoting veterans employment; and we continue to emphasize our opposition to the contracting out of title 5, United States Code, positions that are restricted to veterans preference eligibles.

It is imperative that the Veterans' Employment and Training Service be adequately funded and staffed in order to provide the necessary services that are required to enhance veterans employment.

It is the contention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that a veteran's employment emergency will continue to exist as long as a sizable portion of our Nation's veterans are seeking meaningful employment.

PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 1984—1985

Veterans Administration Budget

We prevail upon the Congress of the United States to budget and appropriate sufficient funding for the Veterans Adminstration to fully support the ever increasingly burdened VA hospital and medical care system.

Compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and Pension

The integrity of the compensation program, the keystone of all veterans benefits, must be maintained along with the DIC and pension programs. We oppose in the strongest possible terms proposals to reduce or eliminate benefits for disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

We insist on the retention of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee as a standing Committee of the United States Senate and adamantly oppose any effort to reduce its status or function.

Herbicide Exposure

That Congress encourage the expeditious completion of studies on the health problems attributable to herbicide exposure; and liberalize the criteria for disposition of herbicide related claims, to include placing the burden of proof for the award of disability compensation on the government.

Radiation Exposure

We continue to support legislation granting medical treatment and service connection for compensation purposes on a presumptive basis for certain disorders when verification of exposure to radiation is established.

Older Veterans

We urge Congress to provide the necessary funding and staffing for a comprehensive geriatric and extended health care program so that this Nation's ever growing ranks of older veterans may be provided for in what may be their time of greatest need.

Cabinet level for Administration of Veterans Affairs

We strongly support the Veterans Administration being upgraded to Executive Department status, and the Administrator of Veterans Affairs being designated as a member of the President's Cabinet.

VA Personnel Structure

We vigorously oppose any and all attempts to reduce the Veterans Administration personnel structure, in particular, those Department of Medicine and Surgery personnel in grades GS/GM 11-15 as jointly proposed by OPM and OMB.

Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act

We actively support the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act and request that appropriate legislation be enacted to streamline the administration of the program to include the delegation of authority to the State Job Service and/or the Local Veterans' Employment and Training Services to recertify participants in the program. We strongly recommend that the initial certification under the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act be extended for a period of 90 days and that the 15 of the last 20 weeks unemployment provision be eliminated.

Veterans Preference

We support veterans preference and that it be strictly enforced in all federal departments and agencies, and that we reaffirm our traditional policy and oppose any and all attempts to weaken or destroy veterans benefits and preference in federal and public employment.

Requirement for Federal Employment

We support legislation which would require all eligible male federal service applicants be registered with the Selective Service System and that nonselective service registrants be automatically removed from consideration for any government job until registration is made with the Selective Service.

98TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

The second session of the 98th Congress convened on January 23, 1984, and adjourned sine die October 12, 1984, in order that those members facing re-election could return to their states and districts to campaign. The Senate was in session 131 days for a total of 940 hours and 28 minutes. The House of Representatives stood in session 120 days for a total of 852 hours and 59 minutes. During this time, the Senate introduced 3,095 bills of which 112 were enacted into law, and the House introduced 6,442 bills of which 133 were signed into law. Overall, 9,537 bills were introduced in the second session of the 98th Congress resulting in 245 new public laws. The president vetoed six bills during this period; however, the Congress overrode three of these measures. In reporting the activities of the 98th Congress, second session, the *Congressional Record* printed 12,284 pages devoted to the House of Representatives and 14,612 pages for the Senate for a total of 26,896 pages.

As can be expected, the single most important piece of legislation affecting veterans, their dependents, and survivors each year is the Veterans Administration budget contained in the HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriation. The Veterans Administration appropriation for the 1985 fiscal year, which began October 1, 1984, was enacted as Public Law 98-371 and totaled $25.7 billion. Unlike a vast majority of the other federal departments, agencies and bureaus, the fiscal year 1985 Veterans Administration budget was agreed to early on in the process, thus, eliminating much anguish and apprehension which was experienced by those other areas of the government. The Veterans Administration fiscal year 1985 appropriation represented an increase of $766.8 million over the fiscal year 1984 total. The line-item breakdown of the fiscal year 1985 Veterans Administration budget, as compared to fiscal year 1984, is as follows:

	Fiscal year—	
	1985—Public Law 98-371	Difference from 1984
Compensation and pension	$13,993,000,000	+$150,900,000
Readjustment benefits	1,137,000,000	−233,300,000
Veterans job training		−150,000,000
Insurance and indemnities	11,000,000	+3,600,000
Medical care	8,792,000,000	+721,400,000
Medical and prosthetic research	192,700,000	−23,600,000
Medical, administration and miscellaneous operating expenses	70,000,000	+3,400,000
General operating expenses	750,500,000	+38,300,000
Construction, major	568,200,000	+225,500,000
Construction, minor	200,200,000	+14,800,000
Grants, State extended care facilities	34,500,000	+16,500,000
Grants, State veterans cemeteries	5,000,000	+2,000,000
Grants, Republic of the Philippines	500,000	
Direct loan revolving fund	1,000,000	

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, in realizing the financial constraints facing the Nation, generally supported the budget; however, we did have some reservations and areas of concern.

The medical care budget, although increased $721.4 million over fiscal year 1984, still did not adequately reflect and address the problem of inflation in medical care. The demand for medical care by eligible veterans already exceeds the Veterans Administration's ability to provide such care and, as a result, some veterans in the lowest priority—nonservice-connected disabilities—are still being forced to seek treatment in community hospitals as welfare patients.

Many will recall that, during our 84th National Convention, President Reagan signed into law with great fanfare and national television coverage the "Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act of 1983". We were disappointed in that the fiscal year 1985 budget did not provide for the full funding level as recommended in the initial legislation. Although the Administrator did state additional funding would be requested if needed, your Veterans of Foreign Wars strongly suggested the fiscal year 1985 budget contain such funding so as not to send a wrong signal to veterans intimating the administration was reneging on this commitment.

It came as no surprise that the Second Session of the 98th Congress was not devoid of those who would do violence to the Veterans Administration, its hospital and medical care system and veterans' benefits. No, the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, known as the "Grace Commission", joined that list of detractors including, but not limited to, the Heritage Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Congressional Budget Office. As a matter of fact, some of the recommendations of industrialist J. Peter Grace to nullify veterans' benefits are being given serious consideration by Congress and engender fear in the veterans world that our country may, indeed, be retreating from its longstanding obligation to those who shouldered arms in our Nation's defense.

NEW LAWS OF INTEREST TO VETERANS

Public Law 98-525, the "Department of Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1985", established a new educational assistance program to be administered by the Veterans Administration. As signed, individuals entering active service commencing July 1, 1985, and ending June 30, 1988, are eligible for post-service educational benefits. While the program is voluntary, participation is automatic upon entrance into the Armed Forces unless the individual elects in writing not to participate. To participate, an individual must serve either three or more continuous years on active duty or two continuous years on active duty in combination with four continuous years in the Selected Reserves. In return for educational assistance, the service member's basic pay is reduced by $100 per month for the first 12 months of active duty. Educational assistance is then earned on the basis of one month of benefits for each month of active duty service and one month of benefits for each four months of service in the Reserves—up to a maximum of 36 months. Allowances paid to those pursuing an educational program on a full-time basis varies, depending upon the period of active duty served: $250 per month for 36 months with two years active duty, and $300 per month for 36 months with three years active duty. The Veterans of Foreign Wars supported the adoption of the provision granting this "Peacetime GI Bill"; however, we did so with reservation. In our opinion, the "Peacetime GI Bill" is clearly a recruiting and retention tool for the Armed Forces and, therefore, should not be funded by the Veterans Administration, but rather the Department of Defense.

Public Law 98-528, the "Veterans' Health Care Act of 1984", made several important adjustments to the health care delivery system of the Veterans Administration. With respect to security and law enforcement on Veterans Administration property, the Administrator must prescribe regulations to improve policies in enforcement and arrest authorities; scope and duration of training; situations involving patients; and rules limiting the carrying and use of weapons. The Administrator also was given the authority to pay Veterans Administration officers a uniform allowance and increase the rates of basic pay.

The Act extends, through September 30, 1985, the Veterans Administration's authority to provide health care of various types to United States veterans living in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; makes permanent the Veterans Administration's Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center Program by authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 1985 and beyond; and permits the Veterans Administration to make grants to States for the acquisition of existing private buildings for conversion to State nursing homes and domiciliary facilities for veterans.

Also included in Public Law 98-528 were provisions addressing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a recognized disorder associated with veterans, particularly those exposed to combat, who have difficulty integrating their experiences with "normal" civilian life. the Chief Medical Director is authorized to designate special programs for the treatment of PTSD. These programs are to include the education and training of personnel in the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD. The Act also requires the Chief Medical Director to establish a special committee on PTSD to develop policies and coordinate services for treatment and to make recommendations for improvement.

The enactment of Public Law 98-542, "Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act", can, without a doubt, be directly attributable to the long, hard work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We recognized the direct relationship between Agent Orange and various medical disorders long before a majority of those in the traditional veterans community acknowledged the casual effect. For many years the Veterans of Foreign Wars stood alone in its fight to convince the Congress and Administration that veterans were legitimate in their complaint that Agent Orange was the common denominator in a multitude of disabilities causing anguish and suffering. At the same time, the Veterans of Foreign Wars was also fighting to convince the Congress that those veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during the nuclear testing program were suffering from a higher incidence of cancers and other disabilities. On October 24, 1984, our efforts were partially rewarded with the President signing into law H.R. 1961. Although not all what we wanted or expected, Public Law 98-542 addresses the issue and provides service connection for those affected veterans, if only on a temporary basis.

As in all cases, eligibility to Veterans Administration compensation benefits is based on service connection. In making determination on claims of service connection for exposure to Agent Orange or radiation, the Act requires the Veterans Administration to follow its "benefit of the doubt" policy. With respect to veterans exposed to certain levels of dioxin, the Administrator may grant a service-connection allowance under the regulations prescribed for the following diseases: (1) Chloracne (a skin disorder); (2) Porphyria Cutanea Tarda (a liver disorder); (3) Soft-Tissue Sarcoma (malignant tumors or cancers); and (4) other diseases determined by the Administrator to be service connected. For veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, service-connected allowance may be granted for the following diseases: (1) Leukemia; (2) Malignancies of the thyroid, lung, bone, liver, skin, and female breasts; (3) Polycythemia Vera (bone marrow disease); and (4) other diseases determined by the Administrator to be service connected. Service connection may not be granted in cases where there is sufficient, affirmative evidence that the disease resulted from another cause. Such death and disability compensation is payable on a temporary basis from October 1, 1984, through September 30, 1986.

Probably one of the most comprehensive pieces of legislation affecting veterans was the "Veterans' Benefits Improvement act of 1984," enacted as Public Law 98-453 on October 24, 1984. This Act increased the rates of disability compensation paid to service-connected disabled veterans by 3.2 percent. Also increased by 3.2 percent were: (1) Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, (2) aid and attendance allowance for those needing the aid and attendance of another person in their day-to-day activities, (3) housebound allowance for eligible veterans, (4) clothing allowance for those wearing or using a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance, and (5) various dependent and survivor allowances. While Public Law 98-543 is most likely to be referred to for its provision to increase compensation rates, the Act has a broad impact on many programs affecting veterans.

One of the more controversial provisions establishes a pilot project trial work period for those veterans who have total disability ratings due to unemployability. This pilot project began February 1, 1985, and will last through January 31, 1989. The intent is to provide these veterans an opportunity to return to the work force for 12 months in order to ascertain whether employment is feasible without risking their unemployability rating should employment not be possible. Counseling, placement and post-placement services will be available under this program. Veterans obtaining individual unemployability ratings on or after February 1, 1985, would be required to participate in a vocational rehabilitation evaluation in order to determine whether achievement of a vocational goal is reasonably feasible.

Along similar lines, the Act also establishes a four-year pilot program of vocational training for new nonservice-connected disabled veteran pension recipients beginning February 1, 1985, through January 1, 1989. A new veteran pension recipient under age 50 will be required to undergo a vocational training evaluation while a new recipient 50 years of age or older will be permitted to apply for vocational training under this program on a voluntary basis. If the veteran pursues vocational training, he or she will be paid the appropriate rate of nonservice-connected pension while the Veterans Administration will provide tuition, books and fees for the training. Veterans entering this program who, therefore, lose entitlement to pension because his or her work income causes the annual income limitation to be exceeded will continue to be eligible for Veterans Administration health care for a three-year period following the date on which the pension is terminated. In addition, Public Law 98-543: (1) increases from $4,400 to $5,000 the one-time automobile allowance for certain service-connected disabled veterans; (2) provides that a veteran may own two vehicles at any one time which have adaptive equipment paid for by the Veterans Administration; (3) increases from $32,500 to $35,500 the specially adapted housing assistance grant for 'wheelchair" homes; (4) increases from $5,000 to $6,000 the specially adapted housing allowance grant for certain service-connected blinded veterans who have suffered the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands; and (5) provides a 10 percen* increase in the rates of educational training assistance allowance under the GI Bill. Finally, the Act extends the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority through September 30, 1986, while increasing the maximum grade level from GS-7 to GS-9 and allowing limited appeal rights for VRA appointees during their first year of employment.

99TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

The 99th Congress convened January 3, 1985, the date prescribed by the United States Constitution. As in the 98th Congress, the Republican Party held the majority in the Senate; however, with the retirement of Senator Howard Baker, there was a change in the majority leadership. Senator Robert Dole was elected Majority Leader and Senator Alan Simpson was elected Assistant Majority Leader. Coming as a surprise to many, it was discovered Senate Republican rules prohibit any senator from holding a leadership position and chairing a committee. Because of this, Senator Simpson was forced to vacate the Chairmanship of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, thus, paving the way for Senator Frank Murkowski to assume the chair of this important committee. The only other change was Senator John "Jay" Rockefeller of West Virginia being assigned to the committee due to the retirement of fellow West Virginian, Senator Jennings Randolph. The House Veterans' Affairs Committee leadership remains unchanged with Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery as Chairman and Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt as Ranking Minority Member

As of this writing, no major veterans legislation has been signed into law; and the budget for fiscal year 1986 is still being debated in the Congress. As was expected, the President's proposed budget fell far short of fulfilling this Nation's commitment to our veterans. In fact, Billy Ray Cameron, the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, labeled it "an unprecedented assault on the Veterans Administration and its hospital and medical care systems." Dr. Donald Custis, former Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration, upon reviewing the administration proposal, stated: "It is unlikely that the Veterans Administration health care system could be dismantled by fiat, but there is clear and present danger that full implementation of certain of these options would be tantamount to its destruction." Needless to say, the Veterans of Foreign Wars must remain vigilent in its efforts to protect and preserve our earned benefits and entitlements from those forces bent on their demise.

HOUSE-PASSED LEGISLATION

Just prior to this writing, the House of Representatives approved four bills designed to greatly improve veterans' benefits. These bills contain "no big cost items" yet address and resolve some very important needs in the veteran community.

H.R. 505, the "Veterans Health Care Amendments of 1985": (1) authorizes respite care for veterans suffering from chronic, long-term illnesses; (2) authorizes 25 Veterans Administration Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECCs), in order to encourage research and treatment of diseases affecting older veterans. Currently, there are ten GRECCs in the Veterans Administration health care delivery system; (3) directs that grant monies for state veterans homes be awarded to areas of greatest need, but provides a two-year transition period for states which have submitted applications prior to October 1, 1985; (4) extends until September 30, 1988, the authority of the Veterans Administration to contract with halfway houses and other community treatment facilities for treatment of veterans with alcohol or drug abuse problems; (5) allows veterans who are in Veterans Administration nursing homes, domiciliaries, or hospital-based home care programs to be admitted directly into a community nursing home (the current requirement is to be admitted first to a Veterans Administration hospital, which results in additional costs); (6) permits veterans who require nursing home care for treatment of service-connected disabilities to continue to receive such care without reauthorization every six months; (7) equalize eligibility for domiciliary care for veterans with service-connected disabilities for removing restrictions to admission of these veterans; and (8) authorize a three-year demonstration project at three locations to test the cost-efficiency and health-care effectiveness of chiropractic care.

H.R. 2343, "Veterans' Compensation Benefits Amendments of 1985": (1) requires the Veterans Administration to maintain regional offices in each state—this provisions, authored by former Veterans' Affairs Committee Member Marvin Leath (D-TX), is meant to be a safeguard against the Administration's fiscal year 1986 budget proposal to consolidate regional offices into three centralized locations, a proposal which was soundly rejected in 1981; (2) includes a sense of the Congress resolution opposing the concept of taxing compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities; and (3) increases the maximum coverage under Servicemen's Group Life Insurance from $35,000 to $50,000.

H.R. 2344, "Veterans' Housing and Memorial Affairs Amendments of 1985": (1) contains a sense of the Congress resolution reaffirming the Committee's strong opposition to the Administration's proposal to raise the Veterans Administration home loan origination fee from one percent of five percent; (2) provides for an orderly expansion of the National Cemetery System by requiring the Veterans Administration to submit annually a five-year plan for construction and expansion; (3) requires the placement of upright markers in national cemeteries, but requires the Administrator to designate certain portions of national cemeteries for use of flat markers to afford veterans and their families a choice; (4) establishes a national cemetery in Merced County, California; and (5) authorizes service-connected disabled veterans who are entitled to the $6,000 specially-adapted housing grant to acquire a housing unit with modifications already in place and to be reimbursed for the fair market value of the modifications.

H.R. 1408, "Veterans' Employment Amendment of 1985": (1) extends the application deadline for participation in the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Program from February 28, 1985, to December 31, 1985, and the deadline by which a veteran participant must be enrolled in an approved job training program from September 1, 1985, to July 1, 1986; (2) provides for an authorization of $75 million for the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Program for fiscal year 1986; and (3) makes improvements in the Vocational Readjustment Appointment Authority, under which Vietnam-era veterans are given special consideration when seeking Federal employment.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF CAMERON PRESENTED LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO CONGRESS

The annual Washington Conference of National Officers and State Commanders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was held in Washington, D.C., on March 8-12, 1985, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. One of the highlights of this meeting was the appearance of Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron on March 12th before a joint hearing of the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to present the VFW legislative program. The text of Commander-in-Chief Cameron's statement before the joint hearing follows:

"Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committees:

"It is, indeed, a great privilege and honor to appear before your Committees on behalf of the 2.7 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Ladies Auxiliary to present the priority legislative program of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"Senator Murkowski I congratulate you upon your election as Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. To the new members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, welcome; and we look forward to working closely with you.

"Permit me to sincerely commend all of you for having shepherded through the second session of the 98th Congress legislation fulfilling in whole or in part many of our VFW resolutions and priority goals. In particular, the truly yeomen's work you did in hammering out the legislation which became Public Law 98-542, the "Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act". Although not all we had hoped for, at least the wheels have been set in motion to resolve this vexing issue if pursued with vigor. As a disabled veteran who fought with the Marine Corps in Vietnam, I—along with thousands of others—continue to live under a cloud of uncertainty with respect to our health. For those exposed to radiation, their mental anguish has lasted four decades. These legislative initiatives reached fruition only because of the commendable and close working relationships existing between your staff directors and counsels: Anthony J. Principi; Jonathan Steinbery; Mack G. Fleming; Rufus H. Wilson and their staffs with the Executive Director of our VFW Washington Office, Cooper T. Holt and our National Legislative Director, Donald H. Schwab, and their staffs.

"With me today are the leaders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who are directly responsible for the growth and vitality of our organization. Most are elected national or state officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They represent all levels of our organization from across the National and several foreign countries. They and their predecessors have helped make the Veterans of Foreign Wars the great organization it is today. I know I speak for every one of them when I express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to be here today before this joint hearing.

"Our pamphlet entitled 'Legislative and Security Priority Goals for 1985' is appended to my testimony. Without objective, it is requested that these priority goals be made a part of the official record of this hearing.

"I would be remiss, indeed, if I did not thank those Senators who testified in support of retaining the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee as a standing committee of the Senate. The nationwide write-in campaign of VFW and Auxiliary members paid off when on October 4, 1984, the Senate passed S. Res. 139, as amended, fulfilling one of our current priority goals.

"Again, my thanks to those of you who wrote to the President and the Secretary of the Treasury regarding the ill-conceived, ill-advised and insensitive proposal to tax compensation payments made to our disabled veterans. I, too, made the views of the VFW clearly known to the President. We know this proposal has been nipped in the bud, but it is reassuring that you members caused to be introduced in both Houses resolution expressing the sense of Congress that compensation should remain tax exempt.

"You will note that our priority legislative goals do not seek the establishment of any new veteran's benefits or entitlements. These goals merely address adequate funding to maintain the integrity of those benefits and entitlements now authorized by law, with but one exception. That one exception supports upgrading to cabinet rank status, the position of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. I have noted the introduction of H.R. 513 by Mr. Montgomery, for himself, and Mr. Hammerschmidt to establish the Veterans Administration as an Executive Department. The VFW has asked the Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations to hold early hearings with respect to this legislation and that we be permitted to present our views in this regard.

"The budget proposed by the President for the Veterans Administration for the fiscal year 1986, which commences October 1, 1985, is $26.7 billion in outlays. This figure represents a decrease of $82 million from the current fiscal year and is 2.7 percent of the Federal budget of $973.7 billion in outlays—the lowest percentage of the Federal budget in recent history.

"This proposed budget represents the Veterans Administration's further contribution to the continuing deficit reduction efforts of the Administration. In reality, however, we of the VFW view it as an unprecedented assault on the Veterans Administration and its hospital and medical care system sugarcoated by a proposed 4.1 percent cost-of-living increase in compensation and pension to be effective December 1, 1985. In addition, and unfortunately, in more than one instance, the Administration has resorted to distorted and misleading information to garner support for cuts. For example: (1) The Office of Management and Budget has asserted that the cost of caring for older veterans '. . . will be as high as $37 billion annually. . .' The fact is that the VA publication, "Caring for the Aging Veteran", estimated this cost between $18 billion and $22 billion to be largely offset by anticipated reductions in compensation and pension funding. (2) To justify a needs test for treatment of a nonservice connected disability, OMB cited twice the VA pension income standard as '. . . currently $18,828 for a family of four.' According to page 5-7 of volume II of the VA BUDGET, 'VA users . . . are more often not married.' Twice the current annual pension rate for a single veteran is $11,418.

"We of the VFW support fiscal responsibility. We also support fairness and spending priorities which do not distort intelligent, time honored national priorities. Through the budget reconciliation process, the Veterans Administration and veterans have made a very substantial contribution to deficit reduction. How large a contribution is reflected in the following summary:

> Our contribution in the fiscal year 1981 amounted to $493 million; in 1982, $446 million; in 1983, $602 million; in 1984, $840 million; and in 1985, savings are anticipated in the amount of $1.69 billion. Added to these amounts a decade of straight-line budgets for the Veterans Administration with attendant retrenchment of services must also be considered a significant reduction.

"The VFW has historically held that any honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty in our Armed Forces during periods of war and hostility and in need of medical care should be provided that care by the Veterans Administration. Most unfortunately, and according to its own survey, the Veterans Administration is presently denying that medical care to over 21,000 veterans each month. This equates to a quarter of a million veterans a year being turned away by the Veterans Administration. Does the VA know whether these veterans ever receive treatment? Do any of you know what happens to these veterans? Does anyone care? Now, this Administration proposes legislation to deny medical care to most veterans suffering from nonservice connected disabilities who are not in receipt of pension or medically indigent by subjecting them to a stringent means test regardless of their age. This is contrary to current law and opposed in the strongest possible terms by the VFW.

"The primary function of the Veterans Administration's hospital and medical care system is to provide care second to none for veterans with service connected disabilities. However, the longstanding intent of Congress to also care for veterans with nonservice connected disabilities was clearly enunciated in Public Law 68-242, the 'World War Veterans' Act, 1924". More recently, Public law 91-500 made a noteworthy change in that it amended 38 USC 610 by extending eligibility for hospital, nursing home and domiciliary care to 'any veteran for a nonservice connected disability if such veteran is sixty-five years of age or older'. To repeal this law and restrict most nonservice connected care to veterans on the rapidly diminishing pension roll and those veterans who are medically indigent, does not augur well at all for either veterans or the future of the Veterans Administration's hospital and medical care system. The retrenchment of Medicare benefits and proportionate increases in necessary Medicare Supplemental Insurance would work a severe financial hardship on many veterans and subject others to the vagaries of the floundering Medicaid system. According to an *Aging Brief* entitled 'The President's Budget—An Assault on America's Aged and Poor', released February 7, 1985, by the House Select Committee on Aging, '. . . The impact of a means test on the veteran would be considerable. The added cost to Medicare could be as high as $600 million annually'. Curtailing the treatment of veterans will create problems for the entire health care system. Such a mandated continuing reduction in patient load would necessitate reductions in health care personnel, hospital and nursing home care beds and, in the not too distant future, a reduction in facilities and the ability of the Veterans Administration to be a viable primary backup to the Department of Defense. The framework would then be in place to disenfranchise all nonservice connected veterans and contract out care for veterans with service connected disabilities.

"The proposed reduction of 8,000 medical care personnel by 1990 would seriously jeopardize the VA's capability to provide quality health care. Furthermore, the targeted 1,900 personnel reductions under the one percent productivity improvement program proposed for 1986 would in itself severely impede VA medical care programs. It should be noted that the VA which is already operating with a shortage of medical care personnel in excess of 10,000 is operating at 115 percent productivity; the 1,900 personnel count would raise it to 117 percent productivity. No hospital in the private sector could ever operate at such a high level of productivity over a protracted period without seriously endangering patient care. Such action within the VA could well jeopardize the accreditation of many of its hospitals. In the breath of fresh air department, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having furnished me a copy of Chairman Boland's letter to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs indicating that his Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of the House Appropriations Committee will propose an additional $80 million be provided to maintain the medical care staffing level at 193,941. I have already written Mr. Boland thanking him for his continuing, strong support of our Nation's veterans and his letter will appear in our VFW MAGAZINE next month.

"A reduced construction budget will permit replacement and modernization of hospitals at Houston, Texas, and Mountain Home, Tennessee; a clinical addition and nursing home care unit at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; plus nursing home care units at Amarillo, Texas, and Tucson, Arizona; and domiciliaries at Temple, Texas, and Wood, Wisconsin. Construction, however, will be delayed for hospitals at Augusta, Georgia; New York, New York; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the attendant increased cost and possible rescission.

"In testimony given to these Committees last month by Dr. Donald L. Custis, whose credentials are impeccable, stated: 'It is likely that the VA health care system could be dismantled by fiat, but there is clear and present danger that full implementation of certain of these options would be tantamount to its destruction.' Believe me, the VFW will not stand idly by and watch what we have fought for and nurtured over the years destroyed by the President's Office of Management and Budget, social welfare planners or anyone else.

"Third-party reimbursement, last proposed in the fiscal year 1981 budget request to save $315 million per year, has again surfaced in the President's proposed budget, but with more modest anticipated savings of $65 million per year. According to the Veterans Administration: '. . . among veterans hospitalized in VA medical facilities, only 55 percent have some health insurance (including Medicare and Medicaid), while 45 percent do not.' Furthermore, it is suspected veterans with private or public insurance seek VA care only when benefits have expired under their current policies.

"Without delving in-depth into the impediments of this proposal, when Maurice Miller, Senior Vice President of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals with respect to 'VA Reimbursement for Health Care in Certain Cases', on July 11, 1975, he stated in part: 'Our estimates, in case there is a question on it, that to cover the cost of this, insurance premiums for male insurance will probably jump about ten percent.' Most health insurance policies contain an exclusionary clause courts have ruled constitutional and the VA would need to develop and maintain a very elaborate cost-accounting system. Moreover, the VA would need, based upon its own estimate, as many as 2,495 additional FTEEs to handle this extra administrative burden, which obviously the Administration has no intention of providing, in addition to the expanded ADP capability which would be required. This situation is further compounded by the additional personnel required to implement the proposed medical care means test and its corresponding workload.

"The Administration has proposed consolidating into three 'benefit processing and support activities' the adjudication of veteran's claims and the maintenance of claim files. The remainder of the 50 VA Regional Offices would become mere contact points where a veteran could do little more than file a claim since no records would be maintained at these points and adjudication of claims would no longer be accomplished at the state level. President Reagan's fiscal year 1982 budget contained much at the same proposal. The VFW opposed it then and we oppose it now. Reducing VA Regional Offices to satellite or contact points would greatly hinder the ability of our service officers and other representatives to research and present claims at that level since the claim file would not be available to permit the proper and necessary research. The claimant's access to a full and fair hearing would be restricted since many who would be able to appear before a board in his or her own state might well be unable to travel half the distance of our country to make a personal appearance. Such hearings as might be held locally would, most likely, be before proxies. All of this represents a serious infringement on the veteran's right to due process which is already violated by the denial to veterans of the right enjoyed by all other citizens—the right of judicial review. The proposed consolidation would greatly impede the adjudication of claims and the initial payment of benefits to which the claimant is entitled.

"The Veterans Administration's Loan Guaranty Program is the most used veteran's benefit under which nearly 12 million veterans have purchased homes. Public Law 97-253 established a user's fee of one/half of one percent on VA home loans effective October 1, 1982, and terminating September 30th of this year. Veterans with service connected disabilities were exempted and the user's fee when collected went to the Treasury, not the Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund. Public Law 98-369 increased the user's fee to one percent until September 30, 1987. Funds presently collected are deposited into the Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund. Now the Administration proposes legislation to increase the user's fee from one percent to five percent. In addition, it would obligate purchasers of VA owned property who buy on terms (vendee loans) to either pay a five percent fee or pay a one percent fee, make a minimal five percent downpayment and obtain mortgage insurance. The five percent user's fee could effectively negate the value of a VA loan for veterans, particularly Vietnam veterans. The VFW strongly opposes any user's fee for veterans under the Loan Guaranty Program.

"The above proposed cuts are in sharp contrast to that which we had been led to expect from this Administration. When the President was campaigning for the presidency and addressed our 81st National Convention in August, 1980, his profound, reassuring statements with respect to veterans and our benefits and entitlements caused him to be interrupted numerous time by resounding applauses and standing ovations. The President said: it is unbelievable 'that veterans in need are denied hospital and medical care because of inadequate funding which has closed hospital beds and cut health care within the VA.' The party platform at the time contained the following:

> Republicans recognize the very special sacrifice of those who have served in our nation's armed forces. Individual rights and societal values are only as strong as a nation's commitment to defend them. Because of this our country must never forget its appreciation of an obligation to our veterans . . .
>
> We will maintain the integrity of the Veterans Administration. We will ask to keep it separate and distinct from other federal agencies as the single agency for the administration of all veterans' programs. In particular we feel it is of vital importance to continue and expand the health programs provided to veterans through the Veterans Administration hospitals. Here we see the need for increased access to care, especially for older veterans.
>
> We futher advocate continued and expanded health care for our Vietnam veterans and consider it vital for the Veterans Administration to continue its programs for the rehabilitation of the disabled as well as its job training efforts.

"Public Law 98-543, among other provisions, extended until the end of last month the date veterans must apply to participate in the 'Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act' as authorized by Public Law 98-77 and, also, the date training must commence until September 1, 1985. Those funds appropriated, but not yet expended, will remain available until September 30, 1987. However, we of the VFW believe this program should be further extended and funded. The targeted veterans are still experiencing employment difficulties and the program is still gaining momentum. The Honorable Marvin Leath has introduced H.R. 1122 to amend the 'Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act of 1983'. This legislation would complement one of our priority goals by extending eligibility dates and funding. The bill would also authorize Veterans Readjustment Appointments up to grade GS-11.

"The VFW supports veterans' preference and its strict enforcement and opposes any and all attempts to weaken or destroy this benefit. For this reason, we were both shocked and chagrined when H.R. 5799—which was to preclude the total contracting out under the provisions of the Office of Management and Budget's *Circular A-76* the positions of guard, elevator operator, messenger and custodian—died in the Senate when the 98th Congress adjourned on October 12, 1984. The above jobs were previously reserved for veteran perference eligibles as long as preference eligibles were available under the provisions of section 3310, Title V of the *United States Code*. Notwithstanding strong opposition by the President's Office of Management and Budget, H.R. 5799 passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support under suspension of the rules on July 30, 1984. Communications to both the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and the appropriate subcommittee by my predecessor, Past Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson, Jr., and myself urging early advancement of the legislation were to no avail. Now, the Honorable Nick Joe Rahall, II, has introduced, for himself, and a number of cosponsors including you, Mr. Montgomery, and others on the Committee H.R. 1132 to protect those veterans' jobs not already contracted out by the General Services Administration. We will pursue early advancement of Mr. Rahall's bill, of course, and solicit all of the support possible, particularly on the Senate side where H.R. 5799 languished in the Subcommittee.

"Another priority goal supports legislation to require all eligible male Federal service applicants be registered with the Selective Service System and, further, that those not so registered be removed from job consideration until they comply with the law. The Honorable Strom Thurmond has introduced S. 235 which is cosponsored by Senators Denton, Helms and Symms to prohibit employment in Civil Service positions in the Executive Branch of any individual required to register under the 'Military Selective Service Act' who has not so registered. I am proud to associate myself and the VFW with remarks made by Senator Thurmond upon introduction of S. 235. Specifically, '. . . While these lawbreakers are presently ineligible for any form of Federal educational assistance or benefits . . . there are no statutory provisions making them ineligible for employment in a Federal executive agency. This is particularly appalling when one considers that the possibility exists that a nonregistrant could obtain employment ahead of a veteran.'

"None of us know what budget cuts Congress will agree to in the final analysis. However, we of the VFW believe the Veterans Administration and veterans have already made a very substantial contribution to deficit reduction and that the status quo should now be maintained. If the member of Congress believe otherwise, let them speak and be counted. As you know, the President proposes, but Congress disposes.

"Members of the Committees, I trust each of you will be with us tonight on the occasion of our annual Congressional Banquet at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. As you know by now, we will be honoring the Honorable Strom Thurmond with our 22nd Annual Congressional Award for outstanding service to the Nation. The reception will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner promptly at 7 p.m. I want to assure each of you our program will conclude at approximately 9:15 p.m.

"In closing, let me say that we look forward to a continuing close relationship with your Committees. However, we must never forget nor permit the Nation to forget that those veterans who serviced overseas in our Armed Forces during periods of war and hostility have rendered a very special service to our great Nation. They have given years of their lives, they have given years from their families, and they have given years from their personal endeavors if not also their physical and mental health.

"Thank you."

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE—NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman of the National Legislative Committee, Past Commander-in-Chief, Joseph L. Vicites, called the Committee to order on Sunday, March 10, 1985, in the Virginia Suite of the Sheraton-Washington Hotel during the Annual Washington Conference of National Officers and State Commanders of the VFW. An overflow crowd of several hundred received an update on veterans' benefits and pending legislation from the Honorable G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee; the Honorable Harry N. Walters, Administrator of Veterans Affairs; and the Honorable Frank H. Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. A lively question and answer period followed addresses by the guest speakers.

35TH ANNUAL BANQUET HONORING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The colorful and inspiring climax to the Washington Conference was Tuesday evening, March 12, 1985, at which time the 35th Annual Banquet honoring Members of Congress was held in the ballroom of the Sheraton Washington Hotel. Over 2,000 persons were in attendance including most Members of the Congress of the United States, distinguished guests, other dignitaries, the Voice of Democracy contest winners, and the leadership of the VFW. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Strom Thurmond, who was the 22nd recipient of the VFW Congressional Award. In announcing this award, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron said: "Senator Thurmond was selected because of his exemplary service to our country and outstanding accomplishments during three decades that he has served as a Senator."

Report of National Security and Foreign Affairs

At the 85th Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the delegates outlined our goals and our programs to follow in providing for this nation's security. Our goal, simply put, is to insure our beloved nation follows a national security policy able to preserve peace, our freedoms and our vital interests. It is no easy task, for it requires a total commitment to the rebuilding and modernizing of our military strength, to the strengthening of our ties to our allies and to forging a common consensus at home as the foundation for a strong foreign policy which stands up for America.

Our Commander-in-Chief, Billy Ray Cameron, moved quickly to stand up for America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Soon after taking office, the Commander-in-Chief met with the Deputy Secretaries of Defense and State to outline the VFW's views on security issues. A series of State and Defense Department briefings provided in depth review of current problems. Later, in personal meetings with the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commander-in-Chief voiced our concerns about our men still Missing in Action in Southeast Asia, the quality of our forces and the need to recognize the hazards of duty in the Republic of Korea. Commander-in-Chief Cameron found the VFW's national security program had much in common with Pentagon and State Department programs and many Washington officials were glad to receive the VFW's support for these programs.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been steadfast in its long-standing commitment to the modernization of America's strategic arsenal. The VFW supported the construction of the B-1B bomber to replace our aging B-52's and for the Trident submarine Fleet. With those modernization programs proceeding, the Commander-in-Chief turned his attention to the need to produce the MX missile to modernize our land-based missile force. When passage of the defense budget was stalled over funding for the MX missile, the National Commander reiterated the VFW's determined support for the important defense program. In a letter to all members of the Congress, the Commander-in-Chief wrote: "Delegates attending the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 85th National Convention hall last week in Chicago voted to reaffirm its support for the production of the MX 'Peacekeeper' missile.

"The Soviet Union is currently testing its fifth generation of strategic missiles while the United States still debates production of the third generation MX. The imperative of maintaining a credible deterrent in the face of this build-up clearly underscores the need for the MX. Also, the MX represents our best opportunity for limiting the Soviet build-up through strategic arms negotiations. These facts make clear the need for the MX 'Peackeeper' missile and we of the VFW strongly urge you to vote in favor of its continued production."

When a year earlier the Soviet Union shot down an innocent civilian air liner, the VFW and the world were shocked. On the anniversary of the downing of Korean Airlines Flight 007 in August, Commander-in-Chief Cameron reminded the world of that act and condemned the Soviet Union for its callousness.

"Over the past year the Soviet Union has not expressed either regret or remorse for their insensible and inhuman act of shooting down Korean Airlines Flight 007. This inexcusable act of aerial aggression must not be forgotten by the Free World and I urge the United States and other free nations to promote and maintain international sanctions against the Soviets."

He concluded by saying, "Today, the two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States remain as outraged by Soviet Callousness as the day the tragedy occurred."

Once again in September 1984, after years of refusal, the Genocide Treaty was brought up before the Senate for ratification. In a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Commander-in-Chief voiced concerns about the present form of the Treaty:

"Speaking for the more than two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we abhor and condemn Genocide, including that being carried out by the Soviet Union against the people of Afghanistan. However, the 'International Convention on the Provention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,' which is in the ratification process, circumvents the Constitutional guarantees granted our citizens and could strip them of their legal safeguards.

"This Treaty allows for foreign nations to charge, demand extadition and have United States citizens tried by an international tribunal. It could also give the United Nations access to the United States Government documents as well as the private papers of citizens.

"In its present form, this Treaty endangers both our Constitutional rights at home and our citizens abroad. Many things have changed in the 36 years since this Treaty was drafted. Little consideration could have been given by its authors to the possibility that the radical nations of today might use the Treaty against our citizens to the embarrassment of the United States.

"For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote against ratification of the Treaty 'on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.' I also urge you to consider other means whereby Genocide can be prevented without infringing upon the Constitution and the rights of our citizens."

Commander-in-Chief Cameron also noted the anniversary of an organization which for many years has been important to the peace of Western Europe and the United States. In a letter to international representatives to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Commander-in-Chief pointed out the importance of NATO, congratulated the member nations and urged them to fulfill NATO's current defense requirements:

"This September 17th marks the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the first meeting of the North Atlantic Council. At this meeting the foundation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was laid. It led also to the unprecedented cooperation between the United States and our North American and European allies that has resulted in thirty-five years of unbroken peace in Europe.

"This anniversary date is a fitting occasion to advise you that the more than two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognize the vital role played by NATO in preserving the peace.

"Recently, delegates to our 85th National Convention adopted a resolution reaffirming our support for NATO and offering our congratulations to all member nations for their common effort.

"On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I am pleased to announce this resolution to you. It is our fervent hope that all members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will continue to strive in earnest to meet the increased requirements of preserving the peace won at such a precious price in the last war."

Several actions, however, caused the Commander-in-Chief to remind officials of the Veterans of Foreign Wars position on important issues. In late September when the closing of the School of Americas in Panama was announced, the Commander-in-Chief expressed the VFW's views in a letter to the Secretary of Defense.

The Defense Secretary soon responded to our protest and announced that the School of Americas would be relocated to Fort Benning, Georgia and would continue to offer the necessary training to our Latin American neighbors.

When the Genocide Treaty came up again, Commander-in-Chief Cameron once more wrote to the members of the United States Senate:

"The Senate will soon be taking up the ratification of the proposed 'Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.' For the past thirty-five years, the United States Senate and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States have been opposed to this Convention. We of the VFW see no sudden change of circumstances which would cause us or the Senate to reconsider this position.

"However well intended, the proposed Convention is so poorly written it circumvents our unique Constitutional guarantees and its ratification would establish a precedent for future circumvention.

"I ask you to review the critical appraisal of the Genocide Convention by former Senator and Constitutional authority, Sam Ervin, as contained in the March 13, 1973 *Congressional Record.* (If not available through your own sources, we shall gladly furnish you with a copy.)

"Further, I ask you to carefully weigh the potential damage to our system of laws and procedures against the negligence moral authority its proponents claim will accrue from ratification. Indeed, we have a stronger claim to the moral high ground by preserving and protecting the Constitution in tact.

"For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote against ratification of the proposed 'Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.' I also urge you to consider other means whereby genocide can be prevented without circumventing our Constitution and the rights of our citizens."

During the National Peace Through Strength Week, our National Commander-in-Chief served as Co-Chairman of the effort to rally Americans to support a stronger national defense. At a press conference announcing the release of the book, *A Strategy for Peace Through Strength*, Commander-in-Chief Cameron had this to say:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is pleased to be a member of the Coalition for Peace Through Strength. As National Commander-in-Chief of the VFW, I am glad to represent our organization of over two million members as one of the co-chairmen of National Peace Through Strength Week.

"All across our nation this week, VFW Posts are helping to prepare for rallies to be held on Saturday, the 29th of September, in the capitals and cities of nearly all fifty states. Our Posts are actively involved because as veterans of our nation's foreign wars and as concerned citizens, we want to see peace preserved in tact for future generations.

"But the experience of the last four decades provides a solid basis for concern that the Soviet Union has increasingly exploited our desire for peace to expand communist influence and to extend Soviet domination.

"Since 1945, it has been the Soviet Union, through fear, intimidation, subversion and outright aggression that has been the major threat to peace. Even today, the Soviet Union, with its massive war machine, places peace at risk by pursuing a global strategy of fear and aggression that yields only to counter-strength.

"Through these nationwide rallies, we want all Americans to know that we must make an enduring commitment to America's defenses if we are to maintain the counter-strength necessary to assure peace. Moreover, we must display, for both allies and adversaries alike, the determination and national resolve to keep this commitment.

"You know, over the past few years, our resolve to resist communist expansion has not been steadfast. Americans, to one extent or another, have been confused by the communists' skillful camouflaging of their goals and motives for meddling in often indistinctive conflicts in remote parts of the globe.

"And we have been perplexed by the shifts in communist tactics, ranging from nuclear blackmail through psychological terror to subversion. It is not too hard to see that we Americans are sometimes uncertain over which direction to take in dealing with this multi-dimensional, long-term threat to peace.

"It is our hope that out of studies such as this, a new national consensus on how to deal with the Soviet Union will begin to emerge. It will be a consensus that will stiffen our resolve and provide us with determination to do what is necessary to achieve peace through strength. And I can tell you that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be one of the leaders in the formation of this national consensus."

As the anniversary of the Grenada military rescue operation approached, the Commander-in-Chief grasped the opportunity to build a public consensus. In a letter to the President, he outlined the VFW's unanimous support for this decisive action:

"In Chicago this past August, delegates to the 85th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States unanimously adopted a resolution of support for the Grenada rescue operation.

"With over one thousand American citizens trapped by the chaos which gripped that island nation, you took decisive action to rescue our citizens before they became hostages. In so doing, your action also led to the restoration of law and order and to the return of democratic principles to Grenada.

"On behalf of the more than two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I am pleased to reaffirm our support for the decisive action taken by the United States last October 25th."

And, in a letter to the VFW's Commanders, he urged them to participate in a nationwide debate:

"Delegates to our 85th National Convention adopted Resolution 442 affirming our support for the Grenada Rescue Operation.

"The operation conducted jointly by the four major services last October 25th rescued over 1,000 U.S. citizens whose lives were endangered by the breakdown of law and order on that Caribbean island nation. Afterwards, the invaders found volumes of documents describing the communist takeover of Grenada and the secret arms contracts with communist countries.

"This October 25, 1984, various organizations are sponsoring a national day of debate on the communist involvement in Grenada and the American response to threats to our national security.

"To gain public awareness, these organizations are planning to show documentary films describing what happened in Grenada over Cable TV stations and are sending some of the rescued medical students to local college campuses to tell of their experience.

"This occasion offers our Posts, Districts and Departments an opportunity to publicize our support for the rescue operation by participation in the national debate day. By participating, we will be able to display our support for the Grenada rescue operation and show the public that the Veterans of Foreign Wars believes in 'FIRST . . . SERVING AMERICA.'"

The issue of our men still Missing in Action in Southeast Asia maintained its high priority with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Commander-in-Chief Cameron had repeatedly told Washington officials and the American public of the VFW's commitment to resolving the status of our missing men. As the December holidays approached, the Commander-in-Chief urged all Americans to honor our men by joining with the VFW in displaying the Red Ribbon. Noting that ten years after the war, nearly 2,500 men were still unaccounted for, he said, "This holiday season I ask the American people to remember their sons, fathers, husbands and neighbors by placing Red Ribbons on their doors. It will help us to keep them in our hearts during the holidays, symbolize the plight of our POW/MIAs, and tells those Southeast Asian countries that America still wants a full accounting of its missing men."

Following the U.S. Government's December announcement that the United States would withdraw from the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Commander-in-Chief reminded the UN about what the VFW has been saying for years:

"UNESCO," Commander-in-Chief Cameron said, "has adopted a pro-Soviet, anti-American approach in its policies, corrupted its charter by politicizing its programs and refused to consider reforms. We have put up with UNESCO and the UN's mindless anti-Americanism long enough and it's time they learned what it will cost them. Now they can send the bills to the Kremlin because the U.S. isn't going to pay to be kicked around any more."

He concluded by noting, "Great Britain has indicated they are pulling out of UNESCO and other free world nations are considering leaving as well. This action should be seen as a strong warning to the United Nations and its other agencies that our patience has just about run out."

The valiant struggle by freedom fighters around the world has been recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has urged our government to support the battle against communist aggression. With the fifth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Commander-in-Chief urged the Congress to provide more aid. Commander-in-Chief Cameron said, "Since they invaded Afghanistan five years ago, the Soviet Union has systematically set about to depopulate Afghanistan. The Red Army occupiers of Afghanistan are destroying the villages and crops to induce famine. By this means, they are waging a total war against the Afghan people and the freedom fighters who carry on the struggle to rid their country of communism. The famine, which is as serious as that in Ethiopia, has already produced millions of starving refugees in Pakistan.

"Our help is needed now," the Commander-in-Chief continued, "if the refugees and the freedom fighters are to survive the oncoming winter and the next Soviet offensive. I strongly urge the Administration and the Congress to immediately increase the food, medical aid and military hardware the Afghan people need to survive and to continue their struggle against the Soviet invaders."

In February when David Stockman charged before Congress that the military was more interested in protecting its retirement than in national security, the Commander-in-Chief responded. In a telegram to the President, he said:

"The two milion members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were unaware until yesterday that David Stockman was so interested in National Security. Evidently, the draft dodger has now become a crusader to save our National Security from the Military. Our security, as you well know, owes more to our Armed Forces and the veterans of the Armed Forces than it does to David Stockman. His verbal assault on our Armed Forces and their retirement was a slap in the face of those who sacrificed for this country, and of those who are serving it now with a lot more courage than he has displayed.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars will not be satisfied, Mr. President, until the 4-F, draft dodging Stockman has been fired and you have repudiated his views. We also demand that Stockman apologize to this Nation's veterans and its Armed Forces."

Soon afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief heard reports alleging favored treatment for some officers who had taken souvenir weapons from depots captured in the Grenada rescue operation. Mr. Cameron immediately wrote to the Secretary of Defense to express his outrage and to call for an investigation of the allegations.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars is outraged by the reports of the disparity between the treatment accorded to a junior officer and enlisted men and Admiral Metcalf for smuggling automatic weapons out of Grenada last year.

"The bad judgment and poor example set by this senior officer is compounded by the Navy's whitewash of Admiral Metcalf's alleged offense while junior ranking men were harshly punished. The Uniform Code of Military Justice applies equally to all ranks, and seniority is no defense against prosecution.

"This disparity in treatment must be corrected if the Code of Military Justice is to be upheld and our support for the Defense Department's senior leadership is to be maintained.

"For the good of the Armed Forces, this outrage demands that you order an immediate investigation of this entire episode so that fair justice is accorded to all ranks."

The Secretary of Defense responded by ordering a complete investigation by the Pentagon's Inspector General.

The Commander-in-Chief's high priority goal concerning our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia led him to establish several new initiatives. Following the March Conference briefings on the POW/MIA situation, Commander-in-Chief Cameron wrote an article for the VFW Magazine reaffirming National Security Resolution 423 and issued a challenge to Hanoi to speed up resolution of the POW/MIA issue. Noting the accelerated progress that had been made, Mr. Cameron said "if this occurs, maybe the time will have come to let Hanoi know that its goal of normal relations with the U.S. is possible if the issue of our missing men is fully resolved. Maybe it is time to let the Southeast Asian governments know that as soon as they provide the fullest possible accounting and the VFW's Priority Goal is achieved, the VFW will turn to the U.S. Government and urge it to normalize relations, including the lifting of all restraints with those governments." When the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Mr. Robert C. McFarlane, heard of the Commander-in-Chief's challenge, he wrote to Mr. Cameron to say that the proposal was appreciated and "can be used constructively."

In April, Commander-in-Chief Cameron launched another new initiative concerning the POW/MIA question. After hearing of North Vietnam's interest in recovering their war dead, Mr. Cameron urged all Vietnam veterans to provide information about Vietnamese grave sites. This information, collected and then turned over to the North Vietnamese by U.S. negotiators, would show our determined interest in resolving the fate of all missing men and especially our own comrades.

When the Senate Foreign Relations Committee took up the proposed ratification of the Genocide Treaty, Commander-in-Chief Cameron again voiced the VFW's concerns. His letter to the Committee said:

"Once again the Committee is considering ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. As much as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States abhors genocide, we do not support ratification of the proposed treaty.

"Simply stated, thee is no clearly compelling good reason for ratificaiton. Adequate U.S. laws already exist to punish anything which might be construed as genocide by a U.S. citizen. The treaty represents only a symbolic gesture and, unfortunately, symbolism is not a substitute for substance. The symbolism of 96 signatories has been of no value in stopping the genocide in Kampuchea or Afghanistan or freeing the captive nations and peoples such as the Jewish population of Soviet Russia.

"There are sound arguments, however, against ratification. There is no clear definition of what the treaty means since each signatory, according to the International Court of Justice, is free to interpret the treaty as each sees fit. Also, there is a great deal of uncertainty about the future implications of the treaty on our citizens and servicemen in wartime.

"In closing, it appears that the uncertainties and ill definition of the proposed treaty enlarges the risks and outweighs any symbolic benefits. Therefore, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is opposed to ratification of the Treaty and urges the Committee on Foreign Relations to reject it. I also urge you to consider other means, including United Nations reconsideration of the treaty, whereby genocide can be prevented and punished by positive action rather than symbolic words."

The Committee Chairman, Senator Richard Lugar, replied that the VFW's concerns were on target and later announced that the treaty would have to be modified to overcome these concerns.

The Commander-in-Chief worked hard in our determined effort to build a strategic national defense by modernizing our strategic forces. When in mid-March the Congress took up the MX "Peacekeeper" missile, Mr. Cameron wrote to all members of Congress.

"The Congress will soon be taking up the issue of the continued production of the MX 'Peacekeeper' missile. As you consider your position, you should know that the more than two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars overwhelmingly support production of the MX.

"It seems to us that the MX missile is essential if the United States is to redress and restabilize the current military imbalance in strategic forces between ourselves and the Soviet Union. Moreover, without the MX, the current Soviet six to one advantage in MX-type missiles could have very serious implications in the future.

"The immediate implications on the Geneva Arms Reductions Negotiations are also serious. Unless the Soviets understand that the United States is determined to restore the military balance, they have no incentive to restore superpower stability through negotiation.

"Indeed, we must ask ourselves what kind of long term impression we want to impart to the new Soviet leadership by this crucial vote.

"As National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I strongly urge you to vote in favor of the MX missile and to urge your colleagues to vote favorably as well."

With his determined support, the Congress voted to continue production of the MX missile as part of the stategic forces modernization program.

The national security problems in Central America was another important issue that Commander-in-Chief Cameron tackled. When Congress was considering the continuation of appropriated funds for the Nicaraguan resistance, Commander-in-Chief Cameron wrote them:

"It is clear there is no simple solution to the complex problems of Central America. But it is equally clear that communism in Nicaragua is a major part of the problem, not the solution. Left unchalleged, communism threaten all within its reach.

"It is time to recognize there is no basic distinction between communism whether in Afghanistan or in Nicaragua. Yet it seems some sort of double standard is being established in supporting those who oppose communism in Afghanistan and Kampuchea and those in Nicaragua.

"If this double standard is estalished it will offer greater opportunities for communism in the near future and discourage democratic resistance to the communist challenge. Without additional aid, the means and the will to resist Nicaragua's communists will disappear and the opportunity for unchallenged communism to extend its reach in Central America will increase.

"For this reason, I strongly urge you to vote in favor of additional aid for the Nicaraguan resistance."

When the continued aid passed the U.S. Senate, but lost in the House of Representatives, Mr. Cameron sounded a warning:

"Less than a week after the Congressional vote against the Nicaraguan freedom fighters, the Sandinista regime's leader, Daniel Ortega, has mockingly shown his arrogance and contempt for Congress and the United States by shuttling off to Moscow. Now with the resistance freedom fighters defeated, not on the battlefield but in the United States Congress, the Sandinistas are openly flaunting their close ties to Communist Cuba and Moscow.

"In the reverse of the Bipartisan Commission on Central America's plan, the Sandinistas have used nearly half of Nicaragua's income to buy weapons from the Soviet Union and bankrupt the country's economy. Since democratic free enterprise has been nearly wiped out in Nicaragua, the Sandinistas, with Moscow's assistance, can transplant the communist economic model to Central America."

Mr. Cameron warned that "I'm sure we will see a lot more Russians advisors accompanying Moscow's economic aid to Nicaragua. Then maybe we'll realize that we've got another Soviet satellite like Communist Cuba in the Western Hemisphere.

"And with each additional Russian, Cuban or Warsaw Pact advisor that arrives, Nicaragua and its allies will be heaping more contempt upon the United States. The issue now becomes not what to do about their contempt for us, but what we are going to do about another Communist Cuba in the Western Hemisphere."

In May, as the Defense budget moved through Congress, the Commander-in-Chief spoke out again for the military, the veteran and strong national defense when he opposed cuts to the Military Retirement Authorization. In a letter to Congressman Les Aspin, he said:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is opposed to the proposed bill, H.R. 1984, to cut $4 billion from the Military Retirement Accural Account. The current military retirement program provides for a strong national defense by recruiting and retaining the quality people needed by our Armed Forces.

"Changing the current military retirement without regard to the consequences to recruiting and retention could have disastrous effects. Also, it will be seen as establishing different values for military service before 1986 and after. We veterans seriously question whether Congress can forecast that military service will have reduced value in the future.

"In addition, H.R. 1984 will have an immediate impact on the morale of our servicemen and women as well. This blow can only be softened by opposing H.R. 1984 and by immedate consideration of a GI Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights should spell out in clear detail what the United States will provide for its servicemen and women while on active or reserve duty and when they enter the retired reserves."

The Commander-in-Chief worked to aid military veterans by removing barriers to employment. This letter to the U.S. Senate supported the bill to enforce Selective Service registration for male Civil Service applicants.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States supports the bill, S. 235, proposed by Senator Thurmond to bar Civil Service applicants who have not registered for military Selective Service.

"Notwithstanding the fact that those applicants who have not registered with the Selective Service as is required are breaking the law, the veteran of military service often finds the current system works against him.

"Under current legislation and regulations, only former servicemen are required to supply their Selective Service number when applying for Civil Service. Their number is used in a lengthy process to verify their claim to preference points for military service. This can work against the veteran because non-veterans and non-Selective Service registrants can be hired much more quickly since they do not have to await the lengthy claim process.

"For these reasons, we support the proposed bill to bar those applicants who have not registered for the Selective Service and ask you to urge your colleagues to support the bill as well."

In June the Congress faced some tough votes on Defense, and Commander-in-Chief Cameron asked for their support. In a letter to the House concerning the disposition of some Pentagon savings, he said:

". . . The proposed transfer of the Defense Department's $4 billion in savings to conventional force improvements is a good step forward in the right direction. The VFW agrees with General Rogers that the modernization of our conventional forces is a necessity if NATO is to maintain a credible deterrent to Soviet aggression. The VFW will gladly endorse that portion of the amendment pertaining to conventioal forces and support its passage.

"Also we ask you to consider including our special operations force to the amendment. With strategic force modernization on track and conventional force modernization boosted by the amendment, there remains only the need to enhance the capabilities of our special operations forces. These forces have been neglected too long despite the growing likelihood of low intensity conflict. Thus it seems prudent to provide the essential requirements these increasingly important forces need."

Later during June, the Commander-in-Chief entered the Congressional debate over the Defense Authorization Bill. His letter to the House of Representatives informed them that: The forthcoming consideration of the Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 1874) offers the opportunity to make several significant improvements in our military posture.

"In the first instance, Mr. Bennett's amendment to reprogram the Defense Department's $4 billion cost savings to conventional forces will boost both the deterrence and readiness capability of our conventional forces. It will also raise the nuclear threshold in Europe.

"Secondly, H.R. 1874 provides the opportunity to reduce the alarming vulnerability in our chemical posture. For too long the chemical capability of our forces has degenerated until it is now ineffective as a deterrent or a weapon. Moreover, the aging stockpile represents a growing hazard to our troops and our population. The Defense Department proposal to begin binary construction, produce new chemical defense equipment and start destructioin of our aging weapons is an opportunity that should be taken.

"Finally, the Strategic Defense Initiative is a concept that must be fully funded if the United States is to maintain our technological leadership against the ongoing Soviet anti-missile program and the Soviet reluctance to reduce their huge ICBM force. Until the SDI research has reached a conclusion, it would be imprudent to starve the program by withholding necessary funding.

"Taken together, these proposals can materially and technologically strengthen both our conventional and strategic defense.

"As you consider the Defense Authorization Bill, I want you to know the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States supports these proposals and urges you to vote for their passage."

As the year's motto stated, the Commander-in-Chief devoted himself to "FIRST . . . SERVING AMERICA." Much was accomplished by our support for efforts to improve America's national security. Much is yet to be done, but Commander-in-Chief Cameron's devotion reflected the dedication of the men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to their national security.

Report of National Veterans Service

HOWARD E. VANDER CLUTE, JR., *Chairman*

FREDERICO JUARBE, JR., *Director*

Now that we have entered the mid-1980's, it is abundantly clear that there is an ever increasing demand on the Veterans Administration for benefits and medical care. This comes at a time when the Reagan Administration enters its second four-year term and along with the 99th Congress, embarks on its stewardship as representative of all citizens. As our Nation's leaders carry out their mandates as they see them, the VFW must make certain that their actions do not result in a disproportionate impact on veterans' benefits and health care programs.

Plans advanced by Office of Management and Budget, Congressional Budget Office and others would dramatically reduce the number of dedicated civil servants, defer construction projects, initiate a means test for *all* veterans, consolidate regional offices and in general, embrace many of the Grace Commission recommendations that we unalterably oppose.

Couple these with an inappropriate reduction of key VA employees in Grades 11–15 imposed by OMB and, coincidently, elimination of vital Central Office jobs to meet severe reduction targets in budget authority for staffing with a realignment plan presented by Dr. John W. Ditzler, Chief Medical Director, can only result in a severe impact on the quality of care delivered to veterans.

Now more than ever, the VFW must take the lead at every echelon in advocating the preservation and improvement of the veterans benefit system. This means that leaders at the Post, District, Department and National levels must be well informed of the issues and the challenges that lie therein.

In meeting its responsibility insofar as the challenge is concerned, the National Veterans Service has initiated a training program to better prepared your service staff in Washington, D.C., the Department Service Officers, and District and Post Service Officers to provide the highest quality of assistance to our Comrades and all veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Development of this program was completed soon after the 85th National Convention and, as the first year of operation draws to a close, each phase of the four phase plan has been officially implemented. All indications are that the effort has met with enthusiastic support and resounding success.

The program began in September 1984 when four DSOs and several members of the NVS staff underwent Phase I, Initial Training, in Washington, D.C., followed by visits to their respective offices by NVS Field Representatives to monitor progress and provide on-the-job assistance, as part of the second phase. Next came Phase III Proficiency Training Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in December 1984 and WAshington, D.C. in March 1985, which were attended by nearly all DSOs and NVS staff personnel.

The second cycle of Phase I training was conducted in late April and early May 1985, and included as participants, seven DSOs and two NVS staff members. Follow-up training by the Field Representatives was accomplished in May and June.

The fourth and final phase entitled "Continuing Education" was implemented this summer when DSOs and NVS personnel attended institutions of higher learning to pursue academic courses intended to promote their professional development.

The prospects, as the program is about to enter the new fiscal year, are exceptionally bright, with innovation of new initiatives directed toward the preparedness of the VFW to deliver vital services to its members and the rest of the veteran community.

Our commitment to service to the Nation an our Comrades epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism that has made our country so great through both good and bad times. We as Americans also understand the responsibility of Congress to exercise budgetary constraint in the midst of unprecedented deficits. No group wishes to preserve a vibrant economy more than those who honorably served to preserve our cherished freedom. However, it seems the Veterans Administration is the one agency in the entire federal government that should be commended for its accomplishment in management and budgetary restraints rather than be singled out for disproportionate and unnecessary cutbacks in funding. Study after study has produced results which support the necessity of its programs and the quality and efficiency in which they are implemented.

Although the attack on the Veterans Administration comes from many quarters, the VFW enters the battle optimistic that it will persuade the Congress that reduction and elimination of VA programs are both unrealistic and heartless. Reality demands that the Veterans Administration enlarge, not decrease, its capability if it is to meet the challenge of the 80's and beyond.

Report of National Civil Service and Employment Committee

JAMES C. GATES, *Chairman*

FREDERICO JUARBE, JR., *Director*

The National Civil Service and Employment Committee (NCSEC) with the approval of Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron conducted an aggressive employment during the past year.

Recognizing the significance of the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act (EVJTA) (Public Law 98-77) in the provisions of employment and training opportunities for Korean and Vietnam era veterans, correspondence was forwarded to all Governors requesting that they, in turn, stress the importance of EVJTA within their particular states. Monitoring weekly statistics provided by the Veterans Administration and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training (ASVET), the Veterans of Foreign Wars targeted 15 states for an intensive coordinated employment effort. As of this writing, 382,778 veterans have applied for participation in EVJTA and over 29,000 are now working.

In correspondence to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Billy Ray Cameron stressed his displeasure that the section of Public Law 98-77 authorizing targeted delimiting date extension (Education Benefits) was allowed to expire. The Commander-in-Chief clearly stated that the VFW supports extension of Public Law 98-77 when he wrote to the Administrator "The economic conditions that EVJTA of 1983 proposed to relieve have not been alleviated." With the encouragement and support of the VFW, legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives to extend EVJTA and to eliminate the 15 to 20 week unemployment criteria currently required by the law. This will partially fulfill our Resolution No. 693.

Public Law 97-300, Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was enacted to establish programs to prepare youth and unskilled adults for entry into the labor force and to afford job training to economically disadvantaged individuals and other facing serious employment barriers. Titles II-A and III of JTPA do not provide for veterans' preference in the provision of authorized services and there is no vehicle for accountability of services provided to veterans within those titles. In addition, Title IV-C JTPA that does provide priority of services to veterans has been reduced significantly in the current budget. Though Title IV-C has provided the means to sensitize the community to the employment needs of veterans and has provided limited jobs finding skills training, job training, as well as limited placement, it has proven to be inadequate in helping veterans overcome employment barriers.

Recognizing that JTPA is a critical employment program that will require methodical planning for the appropriation of funds at the state level, Billy Ray Cameron requested on behalf of all veterans that the Governors invite a member of a recognized veterans' organization to serve in an advisory capacity on the State Job Training Coordinating Councils.

In accordance with Resolution No. 641, the VFW has supported legislation to extend the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program and that eligible veterans be defined as persons who served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days and were discharged or released therefrom with other than a dishonorable discharge or were discharged or released from active duty because of service connected disability.

The United States Employment Service has conducted a research progrm to determine the validity of general aptitude test battery and the relationship between test scores and job prformance or productivity. This program entitled "Validity Generalization" has been advanced as an innovative approach to providing employment services and is hailed as the savior of the employment service. This program is expected to be operational nationally within three years. The role of the VFW in the development of Validity Generalization will be serving as a watchguard. We must ensure that the United States Employment Service provides timely and detailed guidance to ensure standardization of services to veterans, as well as the proper utilization of LVER/DVOP staff. In addition, we must promote the awareness of the veteran community to the benefits, as well as the pitfalls to be found within the Validity Generalization system. We must facilitate communications between the USES and service organizations promoting an understanding of VG and its capabilities.

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States bestows national awards to individuals, groups or organizations in public employment service offices who exceed in employment assistance to veterans. Consideration for the award is based on qualifications for the respective category under which the nominee was submitted. This year's winners in the respective categories follow:

EMPLOYER AWARDS

First Place: Adolph Coors Company, Golden, Colorado.

Second Place: Lear Siegler, Inc., Management Services Division, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Third Place: Dynalectron Corp., Aerospace Operations Division, Milton, Florida.

LOCAL OFFICES OF THE STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

First Place: Covington Job Service Office of Kentucky, Covington, Kentucky.

Second Place: Jamestown Job Service Office, Jamestown, North Dakota.

Third Place: Carlisle Local Job Service Office, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

SPECIAL AWARDS—FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Frank G. Clark, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, Kissimmee Job Service, Kissimmee, Florida.

Patrick R. Ford, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, California Economic Development Department, Hanford, California.

Jim Lorance, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Coordinator, Texas Employment Commission, Austin, Texas.

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